SPORTS / A23 ACROSS / A22 MOTORING / B2-1 BUSINESS / B1 WORLD / A28

Portugal shreds North Korea, 7-0

Salceda: 250% SLEx toll hike to kill Bicol trade

Teaching kids proper way of crossing street

RP budget deficit swells to over P162B

NYC bomb suspect pleads guilty

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, June 23, 2010 ++ 10 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 195 P18

Fast action urged in Yusoph kidnap or violence feared

DO SOMETHING FAST OR ELSE

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said as much as he warned that "blood will flow" if Maguindanao and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) failed to deal immediately with the kidnapping of the son of Commissioner Rhio Yusoph.

"Government and Comelec should give you [Yusoph] immediate relief [or] else [blood will flow," Pimentel said in a text message to reporters.

The senator from Cagayan de Oro City called for a speedy government action to resolve the latest abduction to hit Mindanao, home to secessionist movements and terrorist groups.

The 22-year-old Nurnilen Yusoph, who is training to be an imam, was abducted at Barangay Salbula Amanoso in

SMIT A11

It's for real; Charice turns 'Gleek'

By Pinkoko Concepcion

WE TOLD YOU SO.

Reality has caught up with rumor.

It's been almost a month since the hoax item broke the news, through its online edition Inquirer.net, that international pop star Charice Pempengco is set to join the cast of the hit TV musical-comedy-drama series, "Glee," in the United States.

Instantaneously, it became a hot topic on the Internet.

But on the same day (May 20) the report came out, Charice's US manager, as well as the Filipina singer herself, issued denials, saying it was just a rumor.

Charice, who has been traveling in Europe—she was recently in France, and is currently in England—to promote her self-titled US debut album, posted on her Twitter account: "It's official. I'm on 'Glee' [next season]! but [there is] a story behind it. When d rumor came out, it wasn't true. But then after that, I tried to audition. And I made it!

IT'S FOR REAL A13

BIG TIME FOR A LI'L GIRL. Filipina singer Charice Pempengco lands a "recurring role" in season 2 of the blockbuster TV hit "Glee,"

Rights chief to head DOJ

Aquino man in N. Vizcaya gunned down

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon
and Nikko Dizon

A HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER AND campaign manager of the Liberal Party in Nueva Vizcaya was shot dead by two men in front of a court house, a few steps from the police station, in Solano town on Tuesday morning.

Ernesto Salonoy was boarding his white BMW car in front of the Municipal Trial Court building at 8:15 a.m. when the men gunned him down.

His murder came on the heels of the killings of three journalists shortly after the lifting of the election-related gun ban.

AQUINO A19

SC orders full CHR probe of Jonas kidnap

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY unanimously ordered the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to conduct "a comprehensive and exhaustive investigation" of the 2007 abduction and disappearance of activist Jonas Burgos, son of the late anti-Marcos press freedom fighter Jose "Joe" Burgos Jr.

The high court designated the CHR as its "directly commissioned agency for purposes of the rule on the writ of amparo," a recent legal remedy that it intro-

SC ORDERS| A20

THE TOUGH GETS GOING. Commission on Human Rights Chair Leila de Lima leaves the house of President-elect Benigno Aquino III after meeting with him for an hour on Tuesday. The feisty legal eagle said she had accepted the apparent offer of the justice portfolio. The President-elect earlier told the Inquirer that the DOJ secretary is crucial to his anticorruption crusade. VINO GARCIA

'CULTURE OF IMPUNITY'

US to help Noy stop media killings

By Alexis Papa
and Jeffrey H. Tupas,
Inquirer Mindanao

THE UNITED STATES ON TUESDAY pledged to help incoming President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III curb media killings, and an international watchdog body said Aquino needed a press safe from violence if he wished to stamp out corruption.

The Barack Obama administration and the International Press Institute (IPI) based in Austria expressed concern in separate statements over the latest rash of killings of Filipino journalists, with three having been murdered in attacks in Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental and Ilocos Norte in less than a week.

Police said murder charges have been filed against a police officer and a barangay chair in Maray town, Davao Oriental, in connection with the June 14 killing of Mati City broadcaster Dodoldo "Dodz" Camagayan.

Police have also filed murder charges against Pacifico Velasco, newly elected vice mayor of Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, and an aide in connection with the June 15 attack on radio commentator Jovelito Aguirin.

US TO HELP| A18

De Lima's job: Pursue big grafters

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.,
Norman Bordadora
and Tarra Quismundo

A WOMAN IS POISED TO take on the toughest portfolio in the Cabinet of President-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

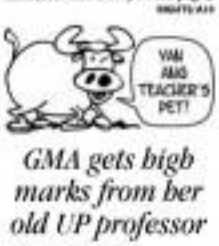
Leila de Lima, the outspoken chair of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), met with Aquino at his Times Street residence shortly before 2 p.m. yesterday and left an hour later.

"He offered the position, I accepted. He will make the announcement," De Lima told reporters after the meeting. She did not specify the position but it is widely assumed to be that of the justice secretary.

She said she would have to resign from the CHR when she is in the second year of a 7-year term.

The feisty legal eagle rose to prominence as a tough-talking election lawyer for the Genuine Opposition in 2007. She was appointed CHR chair when President Macapagal-Arroyo was partying critiques for the record number of extrajudicial killings in her term. (See related story on this page.)

DE LIMA'S A10



WHY WE'RE LEFT BEHIND

RP trails Asean nations by 2 school years; Grade 12 needed

By Philip C. Tubeza

(Last of three parts)

BESIDES A SHORTAGE IN CLASSrooms, teachers, and textbooks, the country's crumbling educational system also suffers from a shortage in school years.

Education reform advocates are clamoring for an additional two years in basic education to meet global standards and ensure that students have enough time to learn their lessons.

"The global standard is, before you enter the university, you need 12 years of basic education. That is why many universities abroad do not recognize our high school graduates because they are lacking in years," said Chito Salazar, executive director of the Philippine Business for Education (PBED), a group of the country's top businessmen who are pushing for education reforms.

"In Southeast Asia, we are the only one with a 10-year basic education. The nearest is Cambodia with 11 years. Even Myanmar (Burma) is ahead of us," he added.

Salazar said adding two years—one in elementary school and another in high school—would improve the qual-

RP TRAILS A13

i-TEAM Report

Fernando del Mundo
Chief

GMA gets high marks from her old UP professor

By Christian V. Esguerra

ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT THE SAME GMA?

A former economics mentor of President Macapagal-Arroyo is all praises for her, while other economists are critical of her administration.

Professor Gonzalo Jurado, Ms Arroyo's former teacher at the University of the Philippines School of Economics, is apparently hurt with the way the outgoing President and her achievements are generally presented by the media over the past nine years.

Through all the controversies that have hounded the President, Jurado sat quietly on the sidelines, waiting for what he called the right "opportunity to make things right."

GMA GETS A20

HELLO, GOODBYE. Outgoing AFP chief of staff Gen. Delfin Bangit (left) greets incoming AFP chief of staff Lt. Gen. Nestor Ochoa (right) as President Macapagal-Arroyo looks on during turnover ceremonies held at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Grandstand 'safe again' by June 30

By Jerry E. Esplanada

REPAIR AND RETROFITTING WORK IS "IN FULL swing 24/7" at the Quirino Grandstand fronting the national parade ground, which the Department of Public Works and Highways earlier this year had declared as "unsafe and unsound."

The rehabilitation of the grandstand is being done by two concessionaire companies, SS Gras and Filipinas Prefab Systems, according to the DPWH public information office, which disclosed as well the project cost.

The two concessionaires will "make this faithful landmark fit and safe again and ready for the June 30 mid-inking of President-elect Benigno Aquino III," the agency said.

It said the two concessionaires were "among the leading exponents of retrofitting works in the country."

According to the DPWH, the contractors will be using carbon-fiber wrapping on the grandstand, a "system that involves the wrapping of building parts with carbon fiber to strengthen weakened beams and columns in the next 15 years."

Last January the DPWH's task force on buildings and bridges found that the grandstand had "severe structural deficiencies posing serious instabilities that could lead to structural failure in the event of a strong earthquake."

It then engaged the services of Angel Linsangan and Associates Intl. to "further determine the structural integrity of the grandstand."

Angel Linsano and Associates Intl. subsequently "submitted a detailed structural engineering investigation report and a design proposal for the retrofitting of the structure."

It strongly recommended the immediate repair and retrofitting of the grandstand using carbon-fiber wrapping.

Originally built in 1939 on a 30-hectare open field by the Interior Secretary Quirino Grandstand "has weathered many storms, including years of war and strife, and decades of wear and tear and neglect prior to the establishment of the National Parks Development Committee under the Department of Tourism," according to a DPWH statement.

The grandstand has been a "silent witness to historical events that shaped this country—from rallies, military parades, festivals and rallies, to big gatherings like the World Youth Day in 1995, where the late Pope John Paul II held mass for more than 5 million people, and the Philippine Centennial Celebrations in 1998," it noted.

The DPWH is celebrating its 112th founding anniversary today.

WORKERS run the retrofitting of the Quirino Grandstand to make it safe and ready for the June 30 inauguration of Benigno Aquino III. (ALJON MENDOZA)

FAREWELL PARTY

For once, GMA loosens up to media

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITH "DANCING QUEEN" PLAYING IN THE background, a media photographer cajoled President Macapagal-Arroyo to take it to the dance floor.

The usually reserve President resisted in her way, but swayed her arms to the music, laughing alongside reporters who were surprised by the gravity in her movements.

Ms. Arroyo homed in to the media Monday night, perhaps as a way of saying goodbye to reporters covering the Palace beat.

After all, her presidency that lasted nine years and was rocked by scandals, was covered by a honored media.

With a week to go before stepping down from the most powerful post in the land and easing into a new career as a local politician, Ms. Arroyo bid Palace media farewell by hosting a sumptuous dinner at the Red Crab restaurant inside the Mimosa Golf and Country Club in Clark, Pampanga.

Serving the people

There was no big press conference to mark the end of her stint as President. Instead, Ms. Arroyo went from table to table posing for pictures and engaging in small talk with reporters and photographers.

Ms. Arroyo then sang to the Carpenters but reluctantly to sing a line or two, she declined.

Then photographer Jack Burgos of the tabloid, Pinoy Pilipino, tried to persuade the President to be the night's "Dancing Queen" and she just grooved to the music.

Later, she expressed her true sentiments: "I will miss serving the people all over the country."

Without skipping a beat, she said she was "thrilled to serve her countrymen" as the newly-elected representative of Pampanga.

President Arroyo was visibly happy that her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, would soon be released from the hospital.

She said the First Gentleman, who had a successful spinal surgery, would be released from the St. Luke's Medical Center in "three to three days."

Ms. Arroyo said her husband was "OK... affirmative I would not be here."

Picture, picture

At the end of the farewell dinner, the President again posed for pictures—this time her aides shoot with reporters and photographers.

Finally she bade them goodbye.

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– Agot Isidro-Sandejas, 41, Singer-Actress

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– Carmi Martin, 47, Actress

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– Cherie Gil, 47, Actress

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TOURS more than just DESTINATIONS

GMA heaps praises on departing Bangit

By Christian V. Esguerra

WITH HIS HONOR GUARD LINED UP TO THE incoming Aquino administration, newly retired Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Delfin Bangit got to lauge down from his outgoing commander-in-chief.

President Macapagal-Arroyo heaped praises on Bangit, her former aide-de-camp, who officially hanged over command of the 130,000-strong military force yesterday to his vice chief of staff.

Ms Arroyo said Bangit had taken the "honorable path" by saying her early retirement after President-elect Benigno Aquino III announced he would get the boot.

Bangit, who was demoted by Aquino during the campaign as a "midnight appointee" and an Arroyo lackey, stepped down 13 months before the mandatory end of his term. Ms Arroyo had named him chief of staff barely three months ago, or a day before an election ban on appointments took effect on March 10.

High ground

"He went to former Defly Bangit—not just as a general, not just as the recently retired chief of staff—but as a person, a human being, a gentleman, who took the high ground by voluntarily leaving the organization that he served so well for the sake of what he believed to be the greater good of the military and the country," Ms Arroyo said in her speech during the turnover rites at military headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The President pointed out that Bangit's 36th birthday this coincides with the mandatory retirement age in the military, would not come until July 21 next year. Had he stayed on, he would have escaped the inevitable company of post-duels of staff who served for a very brief periods, mainly because of the "revolving door" policy at the AFP.

"He chose the early exit as the more honorable path to take," she said. "Thank you, Del, for your sense of honor, for your total dedication to our country, our people, the Constitution, and democratic rule of law."

Farewell speech

In his farewell speech before relinquishing the post to Lt. Gen. Nestor Odtion, Bangit emphasized that his decision to retire early was not a "sacrifice."

Still, Ms Arroyo thanked him "for all the other sacrifices you have made to push the agenda of a professional and effective AFP."

Ms Arroyo credited Bangit for leading the military in helping ensure the successful conduct of the country's first-ever automated poll—a controversy-laden May 14, 2004 election.

Prior to the elections, detractors had raised the specter of Bangit being involved in a supposed plot to sabotage the exercise. The speculation, which Bangit denied, was triggered by his personal closeness to Ms Arroyo, who was implicated in the "Hello, Garci" electoral cheating scandal in 2004.

Bangit, former head of the intelligence service of the AFP (SMFI), belongs to the Philippine Military Academy's Maharlikan-gate Class '78, which adopted Ms Arroyo as their honorary classmate.

Noy told: Shun mom's debt policy

By Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT-ELECT BENIGNO AQUINO III should abandon a policy started by his late mother, President Corazon Aquino, of unsystematically appropriating funds in the budget for debt payments.

Aquino should remain true to his campaign promise that he was open to "debt restructuring," said Akbayan party-list representative Walden Bello who supported Aquino's election.

"Anyway said that during the campaign, we should make him live up to his campaign promises. We ought to declare a debt moratorium," he said.

"Did he say that out of campaign needs or did he say that because what he was saying? I don't think so. I think he realizes that our debt policy is one of the problems," Bello said.

Panlilio pleads not guilty to twin slays

CALAMBA CITY—CLAD IN A YELLOW prison shirt and denim jeans, arrested Bgd. Gen. Jose Mo. Panlilio pleaded not guilty to charges of robbery with homicide at a re-gional trial court here yesterday.

Panlilio, until recently one of the police's most wanted persons, was accompanied by his legal counsel, Raymund Fortun, when he entered his plea before Judge Arnaldo Bebot of the Regional Trial Court Branch 26 of this city.

The 56-year-old senior of the late Arcadio Panlilio of Tarlac City, Panlilio is the main suspect in the killing of bail brothers Abel Steel and Albert Cardenas on July 31, 2003 in Calamba, Laguna.

A fugitive for seven years, he was arrested earlier this month in Pattaya, Thailand.

Particular Cases, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Come clean on '04 polls, AFP urged

By Philip C. Tubeza

TIME TO FACE UP TO THE GHOSTS OF election past.

Retired Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim yesterday said the time has come for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to come clean on the role some of its officers played in the alleged electoral fraud during the 2004 presidential elections.

Lim, who said the involvement of AFP chief of staff Gen. Delfin Bangit yesterday was "a sign" from Bangit that the "prerogatives" of incoming President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III to appoint officers of his choice should be respected.

He added that retired Lt. Gen. Voltaire Gazmin, head of the Presidential Security Group during the presidency of Aquino's mother, would make a good defense secretary.

"There are so many reforms we need in the Armed Forces. As an institution, it is time that the AFP was vulnerable to political machinations by politicians in power, particularly from this administration which has governed for so long," said Lim, who ran but lost in the senatorial race under Aquino's Liberal Party.

'AFP was used'

"In 2004, the AFP was used. We have to be honest with ourselves. Even a watered-down version of the Hagupa report was not released," he added.

Lim was referring to the Armed Forces' own investigation into allegations that military officials were involved in electoral fraud in 2004.

He said Bangit's retirement should also greatly lessen the supposed bad blood between members of different Philippine Military Academy (PMA) classes holding positions in the Armed Forces. Bangit and his fellow PMA Class 1978 alumni have been viewed as favorites of outgoing President Macapagal-Arroyo.

6 planes diverted to Clark

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Six planes were diverted to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) at the Clark Freeport yesterday to avoid congestion at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Metro Manila.

Alexander Gamboa, executive vice president of the Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC), said Cebu Pacific parked four domestic planes at the DMIA while they waited for their turn to land at NAIA. Korean Air and Oriental also diverted one international flight each at the DMIA, he said.

On June 15 as two navigational aids at the NAIA experienced trouble, flights of Cebu Pacific and Dragonair Airlines were diverted to the DMIA, Gamboa said.

"The DMIA has two instrument landing systems (ILS) that provide precision guidance to aircraft approaching and landing on a runway," he said.

He said the DMIA is also equipped with a Doppler Very High Omni Directional Radio Range (DVOR). Rowelle Ompoc, Inquirer Central Luzon

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GUARDING THE COASTS

Look seaward, Coast Guard urges Noynoy admin

By Jerry E. Esplanada

TOO MANY COASTS BUT TOO FEW guards

For decades, that has been the main problem facing the Philippine Coast Guard, according to some PCG old timers.

No less than Admiral Wilfredo D. Tamayo, PCG commandant agrees.

Tamayo recalled that when he assumed his post in 2008, the PCG, an agency attached to the Department of Transportation and Communications lacked so many things.

"Today, our Coast Guard is still one of the most challenged coast guards in the world," he noted.

But Tamayo expressed confidence that the under-equipped and undermanned PCG can grow significantly during its next few years.

Maritime-minded

"It's optimistic that the PCG will continue to grow," Tamayo told the Inquirer.

In an interview, Tamayo said, "Perhaps, this is the time for our new government to be more maritime-minded, particularly in improving the capability of the PCG to do its core functions of maritime search-and-rescue, maritime safety, environmental protection, maritime law enforcement and security."

"We have to have a strong Coast Guard. Otherwise, we will lose a lot of our natural wealth, as well as investments. We also need a well-equipped command for us to have our target of zero maritime accidents," said Tamayo.

He urged the incoming administration to "look seaward," mainly because "our country is an archipelago. We have the 3rd or 4th longest coastline in the world."

"But also because of the maritime-related demands of the international economy," he pointed out.

Tamayo disclosed that "right now, we only have 20 credible ships. Meaning, these are relatively modern vessels. We have about 40 other vessels which are much slower than the others."

Vessel shortage

During the past 10 years, the PCG acquired seven 20- to 30-meter search-and-rescue vessels, two of which came from Australia.

According to Tamayo, "we have at least 60 coastal provinces. Each province should have at least one search-and-rescue vessel assigned to the area. But right now, we only have 20."

"It's good that we have in the pipeline now the acquisition of seven brand-new multi-role French made Fremcopters. The package, worth P6.8 billion, includes the training of helicopter pilots, maintenance, spare parts and mission-related equipment," he revealed.

The PCG "has the ships where these helicopters can land," he said.

"We need these helicopters... With them, we'll be able to expand the coverage of our operations," Tamayo said.

Ideally, the PCG should have at least 18,000 personnel.

However, it has only 4,865 uniformed men and a civilian staff of 349.

Tamayo said, "it will take the command at least five years to reach its target."

Recruitment target

"During the past two years, we were able to recruit 1,500 men. We're planning to recruit 1,000 more this year. If we can't do it this year, we'll double the target next year," he added.

Citing this year's national polls, Commission on Elections Resolution No. 8737 prevents the PCG, among other government offices, from hiring new employees or securing new positions between Jan. 10 and June 9 this year.

The PCG exerts under-equipped and undermanned, but Tamayo claimed they were "relatively better off than 10 years ago when we're not yet attached to DOTC."

According to Tamayo, the PCG is "on track as far as infrastructure development is concerned."

The agency now has a "more effective communication facilities," courtesy of a P300-million grant from the Japanese government.

To be more effective, the PCG "should have three basic elements: authority, responsibility and accountability."

Neri to new Cabinet men: Watch your back

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENTIALIST SENIOR Senator JR cautioned newly appointed Cabinet officials on Monday against getting involved in his plan to prosecute outgoing high government officials for supposed corruption.

While some see Neri as a supporter of the SSS president has refused to testify in any future inquiry into the scandal-ridden $329-million NBN-ZTE broadband deal.

"I have said everything in the Senate inquiry except for those covered by executive privilege, which was supported by the Supreme Court," he told reporters in Makati during yesterday.

Neri is divorced unconstitutionally resigned by June 30 when Arroyo considers the presidency and will then face indictment for graft charges arising from the NBN-ZTE deal as a private citizen.

Neri also vowed to fight for the innocence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"So I could when I reported the bribe attempt to her [Ms Arroyo], she said 'Don't accept it.' That's all I know," he said when asked if she had done enough to stamp out corruption.

The Ombudsman cleared Ms Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, of any involvement in the deal, but recommended the filing of graft charges against Neri and former chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr.

It also found Neri liable for administrative charges and recommended his resignation for six months without pay.

Neri posted a bail bond of P50,000 at the Sandiganbayan last Monday.

Yesterday, the antigraft court ordered the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold departure order on Neri and Abalos to bar them from leaving the country. The court also said they may be rearrested without warrant if they attempt to leave the country without permission from the court.

Neri, who was the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority at the time of the NBN-ZTE deal, told a Senate inquiry in 2007 that Abalos had offered him P200 million in favor the Chinese-based ZTE Corp. for the contract.

But the Ombudsman noted that he did not categorically refute the offer, and "constantly socialized" with Abalos in lunches and golf games.

Neri said he had to "live with" the case against him, saying, "it's all part of being in government."

His image tarnished by the scandal, Neri gave this advice to incoming Cabinet officials: watch your back.

"I thought just by being honest and doing the right thing, it will be OK. Apparently, it's not good enough. You have to keep watching your back," he said.

"No matter how careful you are, how honest you try to be, keep out of trouble. It's a tearing to anybody who wants to [do] governmental."

In retrospect, Neri said if he had his way, he probably would not have joined government.

"I would probably have led a simpler life in the province," he said.

Neri said he held no grudges against Ms Arroyo, who he said has to do "what she has to do."

"The professionally loyal to any boss. Since the President is my boss, I have to be professionally loyal to her," he said.

NERI

Neri showed up at the Palacio de Gobernador in Makati to attend the oath-taking of new heads of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor), Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom).

Pagcor chairman Ephraim Genuino said Neri was invited to the event as a guest of honor.

Neri also attended the oath-taking of Pagcor president and chief operating officer Cristino Naguiat Jr., PCSO general manager Rosario Uriarte and Philracom executive director Jose Antonio Nieto.

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RELEVANT FACTS MOTORISTS AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL SHOULD KNOW

We, the accredited PETC IT PROVIDERS of the private emission test program under the Clean Air Act, have been under threat of removal by Stradcom allegedly because of non appearance testing and conflict of interest. At the same time, **Stradcom** is pushing its so-called "Direct Connect Facility", as an additional business in LTO and in a fast tracked manner, to take over our function and act as PETC IT Provider. In the spirit of candidness and transparency, we are coming out in the open to inform the motoring public of what is happening and for the incoming administration to know the real score.

Issue:
Legal bases of PETC IT Provider and Stradcom Direct Connect

Fact:
Under the Clean Air Act of 1999 (RA 8749) the DENR, DTI and DOTC issued joint administrative Orders (AO) 2003 and 2001 establishing the creation of the PETC IT Providers. **Pursuant thereto, the DOTC issued Department Orders 2004-01 and 2005-37 instituting the PETC IT Provider as the sole aggregator of emission test data for the private emission test program of the government.**

Stradcom is the LTO IT Provider pursuant to its 1999 Build-Operate-Own (BOO) Agreement with the DOTC.

Therefore, Stradcom has nothing to do with the private emission test program under the Clean Air Act. Nevertheless, LTO issued Memorandum MOL-2008-1176 dated 25 June 2008 allowing Stradcom to perform the function of a PETC IT Provider under this Direct Connect Facility.

Issue:
How can a mere LTO Memorandum allow Stradcom function as PETC IT Provider?

Fact:
The above-said Memorandum allowed **Stradcom** to conduct operational testing of its Direct Connect Facility. However, second paragraph thereof states: "As such, all Certificates of Emission Compliance (COC) from PETCs utilizing the said facility must be accepted for registration purposes in all applicable LTO Clients and/or Extension Offices." Thus, in the guise of operational testing, **Stradcom** is indeed performing and acting as a PETC IT Provider because the result of its testing as to demo data and already made valid by the LTO for registration purposes. **Stradcom** is likewise charging its PETC clients P47.50 per test data uploaded. That is on top of the computer fee being charged by **Stradcom** under its BOO agreement through the LTO.

Issue:
Is Stradcom's demo data valid for vehicle registration purposes?

Fact:
DOTC Department Order No. 2008-07, section 8.1.13 specifically states that, "No demo data shall be uploaded to the DOTCIS TO IT System." Thus, all demo or test data uploaded by Stradcom to the DOTCIS TO IT System should not be allowed. This aforesaid DO memorandum directly runs counter to the above Department Order.

Issue:
How was Stradcom able to get PETC clients?

Fact:
In August 2008, the IT Providers, together with the Coalition of Clean Air Advocates (COAA), launched a self-policing program to eliminate non appearance testing using data image monitoring/viewing and the capping of data upload. Under the said program, mandatory random video monitoring of emission test images were sought (during lunch breaks, afternoons or months) thus eliminating non appearance testing. Most, if not all, of **Stradcom's** clients are PETC that were disciplined under the said program. Likewise, Stradcom charged a mere fee. As per Stradcom's own admission, it has already lost PETC clients out of the more than ten (10) PETC nationwide. Stradcom does not monitor the images of the clients and it does not copy the test emission uploaded to its system. By the way, it is only physically possible to test 80 vehicles per PETC lane per day.

Issue:
Stradcom has been alleging that the PETC IT Providers are responsible for non appearance testing or vehicles as well as for conflict of interest to justify the Direct Connect Facility.

Fact:
The fact is there has never been any complaint filed against any of the PETC IT Providers with regards non appearance testing or conflict of interest. **Stradcom** should subscribe to its allegation formally, present its evidence and allow due process to take its course. Otherwise, such allegations are baseless and considered lame excuses to cover up its lack of legal basis to act as a PETC IT Provider.

Issue:
In several newspaper reports, Stradcom alleged that the PETC IT Providers owe it P40 million pesos.

Fact:
We are under a pre-paid arrangement with **Stradcom**, thus owing it money is utterly impossible. Also, said allegation is ridiculous, like liars and challenge Stradcom to sue us and substantiate its claim in any forum or venue and we will answer the same accordingly.

Issue:
Stradcom claims that it is the answer to the elimination of non appearance testing.

Fact:
The fact that PETCs caught engaging in non appearance testing under the above said self-policing program are the ones that were earlier transferred to **Stradcom** proves that the latter does not have any means to remove non appearance testing.

Issue:
Stradcom claims that the PETC IT Providers are mere "middleman".

Fact:
As stated above, the PETC IT Providers exist under the Clean Air Act and we provide a complete ICT system for the PETC to collect, process, transmit and validate vehicle emission test data. Thus, we are an integral and essential part of the private emission test program of the government and not middleman as **Stradcom** claims. Or on the other hand, **Stradcom** is intruding into the jurisdiction of the Clean Air Act by mere LTO memorandum and trying to sabotage our business by essentially doing the same thing.

Issue:
Stradcom as the LTO IT Provider and at the same time as the PETC IT Provider with its Direct Connect Facility, does that not present a conflict of interest?

Fact:
Indeed as the LTO IT Provider it is the one that receives and validates the vehicle emission test data from the PETC IT Provider. On the other hand, as PETC IT Provider, **Stradcom** will be sending or transmitting data only itself. Isn't that a clear case of conflict? At the same time, as PETC IT Provider, we have a direct relationship with **Stradcom** for the LTO treasury or monthly hearing. Again, this would be a conflict of interest considering the fact that we are a client of **Stradcom** and with its Direct Connect it is now competing with us. The law we considered as not only a breach of contract but at the same time an unethical business practice.

Issue:
Stradcom claims that the PETC Direct Connect is a DOTC/LTO undertaking.

Fact:
The PETC Direct Connect Facility was developed by **Stradcom** and is currently seeking approval from the appropriate LTO committee. The said facility is not in any way a system of the LTO. In fact, **Stradcom** is charging its PETC clients a fee thereof in the amount of P47.50 per upload. The same does not redound to the benefit of the government.

Issue:
Stradcom claims that it is instructed by the DOTC/LTO to develop a direct facility.

Fact:
We do not know of any DOTC department order or LTO memorandum to support said claim. Considering that such an order or memorandum has serious legal implications, **Stradcom** should present to the public the basis for its claim.

In view of the foregoing, we thus enjoin the public directly affected by the business practices of **Stradcom** with regards the CTPL, OLRC, LTFRB, etc., to come out in the open and present your case. Perhaps our legislators will be open to such inquiries.

Please send your concerns at **businessagainstmonopoly@yahoo.com**

Corrections

IN THE JUNE 10 ISSUE, a front page article—"Against insurgency at Quirino, party in QC"—misspelled the name of a town official's leader. The leader's name is Nelson—not Nelso—Mandoza.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 11 ISSUE, a front page story—"Some Filipinos renewed as certify he hardly knew it"—misspelled the surname of a rumored kidnap victim. The kidnap victim's name is Charlie Keith—not Keith.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 10 ISSUE, Break 'Binibini's column "Star Spot" on Page A16 of the Sports section...."the night hero tonight 14 crunched"—misspelled the name of a player of the National Basketball Association. The player's name is Nen...not Ned...Cancel.

* * *

THE JUNE COLUMN misspelled the surname of the owner of the Los Angeles Lakers. The owner's name is Jerry Buss—not Buch.

* * *

IN THE FIRST EDITION of the June 20 issue, a front page story ..."Manobanan girl gets a name, and a father"—misspelled the name of the eldest child of policeman Eduardo Fagtanolan. The child's name is Yardaish...not Yardesh.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 22 ISSUE, the front page banner story..."Another journalist killed"—misspelled the name of a journalist killed recently. The journalist's name is Jovelito—not Jovelo—Agustin. The same mistake appeared in previous stories.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front page article..."Road devastates global social experience"—misspelled the surname of an Australian actor. The actor's name is Russell Crowe—not Crow.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front page analysis by Amando Doronila—"Neri's claims' shows in Senate formula votes"—misstated that Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno commissioned a Social Weather Stations survey conducted from April 18 to 22, 1945 and it had not conducted any survey for Puno.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, Gonzalo de Quiroz column "There's the Rub" on Page A14 of the Opinion section—"Never again" stated that Japanese Senator Ito was the president elect. Ebtay is the vice president elect.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writings to the Ang Dyaryo Filipino Daily Inquirer, Pitt Building, China Bank corner Carmen Planas Street, Makati City. Fax Nos. 897-47-05/86, e-mail and snail addresses are not accepted.

Corrections about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Publisher e-mail address publisher@inquirer.com.ph or fax Nos. 897-47-05/86. Note: The Publisher/Ombudsman is NOT HERE (read: MIA)

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 11, 2008
11th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Ki 18:46-19:1Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 11
Gospel: Mt 5:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples, "Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing but inside they are wild wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Do you now pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?

"A good tree always produces good fruit, a rotten tree produces bad fruit and a rotten tree cannot bear good fruit. Any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. So you will know them by their fruit."

Commentary:

"Beware of those who offer easy solutions, or complete cures, who make anything other than the will of God the good of life.

We are meant to become our fullest selves, not our emptiest selves.

At 40 CAPITOL MEDICAL CENTER

Proudly introduces 3 technological advancements

128-Slice Toshiba Aquilion CX Computed Tomography (CT) Scan

The 128-Slice CT Scanner is one of only 4 machines installed in the Philippines. It boasts of:

- Precise imaging (using up to 3mm) of vascular structures including the heart & coronary arteries.
- Performs exhaustive CT angiography and CT cerebral perfusion imaging.
- Faster examinations thereby enhancing overall patient experience and comfort, particularly with the elderly, the obese, those with cardiac & pulmonary illnesses, and trauma patients.
- Enhances patient safety with reduced amount of radiation exposures and less contrast material requirements.
- Better image guidance in the interventional departments.
- Output in digital technology facilitating integration into an overall patient image and/or examination data; and
- Decreases unnecessary admissions to & length of stay in the hospital.

The Snoring, Apnea & Sleep Disorder Center

The 1st state of the art sleep laboratory in the country.

The Sleep Center uses SANDMAN Elite SD 32 PSG System (the 1st installed in the Philippines). This tests for Sleep Apnea and other sleep disorders.

The system monitors EEG (brainwaves), EOG (Eye Movements) and EMG (tensions of the muscles of the chin and respiration).

The Sleep Center has a hotel like room. It aims to offer the best for patients who are in need of treatment for a good night sleep to refresh.

The Out-Patient Dialysis Center

Opened to respond to the growing number of patients with kidney failure.

The Out-Patient Dialysis Center has both the therapeutic and private needs of patients with renal concerns. Furnished with 16 hemodialysis machines, 3 of which are capable of Hemodiafiltration, the Center's patients have the option to undergo treatment in any of its 12 rooms with 2 or 3 VIP rooms and isolation rooms for Hepatitis patients.

The center also features a peritoneal dialysis area to service patients who can not undergo hemodialysis.

Thelma Navarrete-Clemente
MD, MHA, FPOGS, FICS
Chairman & President, Founder

4 Decades Tradition of Excellence

From day one of operation to date, CMC judiciously invested in equipments, systems and facilities that advance prompt and precise diagnosis and promote efficient delivery of health care. This is a tradition of excellence initiated and inspired by Dr. Thelma Navarrete-Clemente (founder). It is a dream she had as a fledgling OB-Gynecologist in her 10-bed maternity clinic in Tondo. In 1979 her dream materialized in a 100-bed tertiary hospital, with competent physicians, nurses and other professionals – brilliant and the best in their fields. In the same year, the hospital's team of experts successfully performed the 1st Kidney transplant in the Philippines.

In the succeeding years, the hospital's service capacity grew stronger with the expansion of the Laboratory and the Radiology Department, the opening of the sections for Nuclear Medicine and Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Neuro-Sciences, Endoscopy, and Pulmonary, the Heart Station, the Centers for the Skin, the Eye, ENT, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and Women's Health, the Intensive Care Units, and the Rehabilitation Medicine. Its medical staff rose to various accomplishments and recognitions both locally and internationally given by their respective specialty societies.

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EARMED

President Arroyo delivers on 'BEAT THE ODDS' targets, creates jobs, stabilizes food supply, prices

The government has created more than 4.4 million jobs, developed some 1.6 million hectares of farmland and stabilized supply and prices of basic commodities for the benefit of low-income consumers, in keeping with the "BEAT THE ODDS" development agenda of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during her nine-year watch.

In his report to President Arroyo, Agriculture Secretary Bernie G. Fondevilla said from 2001 to 2004, the DA was able to generate 1.5 million jobs and another 2.61 million from 2005 to 2009 in the countryside, in sync with the President's Beat the Odds' agenda and Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP).

Beat the Odds stands for balanced budget, Education for all, Automated polls, Transportation to connect the whole country, Termination of hostilities with the MILF and NPA, Healing the wounds of EDSA, Electricity and water for the whole country; Opportunities for 10 million jobs, Sacrificing Metro Manila and Development of Subic and Clark.

Fondevilla said that on creating opportunities for 10 million jobs and decongesting Metro Manila, the DA was able to contribute to this aspect of the President's agenda by developing 1,780,361 hectares of land from 2000 to 2009, on top of creating a combined total of 4.4 million jobs.

Such accomplishments, he said, also substantially realizes the MTPDP's goal of "developing at least two million hectares of new lands for agribusiness in order to contribute two million out of the 10 million jobs targeted as a legacy by 2010."

On the President's MTPDP's goal of "making food plentiful at competitive prices," Fondevilla said the DA was able to establish alternative markets outside the 540 Barangay Bagsakans (BBs) and 62 Bagsakan or drop-off Centers (BCs) to reduce the cost of consumer goods and provide better income for farmers, fisherfolk and other stakeholders.

The DA also set up 16 SM Tiendesitas Farm outlets that sell basic food items like rice and vegetables at prices lower than those in regular retail outlets, he said.

As a result of President Arroyo's initiatives, the average nominal increases in 2001-2009 were 14% lower than in 1992-1998.

Fondevilla said that with the setting up of BBs and BCs nationwide, consumers no longer need to travel far to reach the central public market in their respective localities.

Prices in BBs are lower by P8 to P20 per kilo compared to goods sold in regular wet markets, making basic goods within the reach of ordinary Filipinos.

President Arroyo (left) hands over a Presidential Citation to Agriculture Secretary Bernie G. Fondevilla on behalf of the Department of Agriculture for successfully implementing poverty alleviation programs that provided the poor and marginalized sectors of society, including small farmers and fisherfolk, greater access to basic services. The citation recognizes DA's successful implementation of programs and projects within the framework of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), Barangay Development Program (BDP), and livelihood and livelihood such as the Community Management Act (CMA), community-based programs, FIELDS, and various projects in Mindanao, covering an area DA undertook every Barangay.

MESSAGES

Maligayang pagdiriit sa mga opisyal at kawani ng Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka na nagdiriwang ng ika-113 taong anibersaryo.

Sa nagdaang mahigit na taon, ang Kagawaran ay nagsikap upang mapataas ang produksyon ng agrikultura at pangisdaan upang maging sapat ang suplay ng pagkain sa ating bansa at mapanatiling abot-kaya ang mga presyo nito para sa mga mamimili. Ang mga programa at proyekto ng Kagawaran ay nakatuon sa mga maliliit na magsasaka at mangingisda, para matulungan ang mga pamilyang ito na makaahon sa kahirapan. Kasama ang DA ang pakikipagtulungan sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at pribadong sektor, nakapagbukas tayo ng mga bagong pamilihan para sa mga produkto ng ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda.

Ipinagpapatuloy ng Kagawaran ang mga programa na ang layon ay mapataas ang kita ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda, kabilang ang mga pautang na may mababang interes, mga kagamitan at makinarya, at mga pasilidad sa pagpapatuyo at pagtatabi ng mga produkto. Ang mga programang ito ay nakatuon sa mga lugar na may malaking bilang ng mga mahihirap.

Ang mga tagumpay na ito ay hindi magiging posible kung wala ang pagsisikap at dedikasyon ng mga kawani ng Kagawaran. Sa kabila ng mga hamon at pagsubok, nagpakita kayo ng katatagan at determinasyon upang maisakatuparan ang mga programa at proyekto ng Kagawaran. Ang inyong mga sakripisyo ay hindi matatawaran at lubos na pinahahalagahan ng inyong mga kababayan.

Sa pagdiriwang ng ika-113 taong anibersaryo ng Kagawaran, hinihikayat ko kayong ipagpatuloy ang inyong mga nasimulan at tuparin ang mga pangako sa ating mga kababayan. Sama-sama nating tiyakin na ang mga susunod na taon ay magiging mas maunlad at mas maginhawa ang buhay ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda.

Mabuhay!

Arthur C. Yap
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Republic of the Philippines

Mensahe kapit kong bilang ang mga kawani sa iba-ibang panig ng Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka sa paggunita ng ating ika-113 taong anibersaryo. Sa mga kamang "Sagana at Payapa ang Tonay na Kalayaan."

Nang nagbasa sa Pangulong Gloria Agunaldo ang administrasyon na nagtatag sa Department of Agriculture and Mindoro noong ika-23 ng Hunyo 1898, nakita niya ang isang mahirap na kalagayan na ang kalalayaan sa Kastila pero ang Pilipino ay kinahigpit na kapangyarihan ng iba.

Sinimulan niya ang napakahirap na pagsasaayos at pagsasama sa pagbuhay ng mga tao, ang Kagawaran ay nakatulong sa mga malalaki na magsasaka, mangingisda at iba pang mga nagtatrabaho sa agrikultura. Ang mga pagsisikap ng Kagawaran ay nakatulong sa mga pamilya na makaahon sa kahirapan at nagbigay ng pag-asa sa mga susunod na taon. Kahit dito ay hindi nagtatapos ang mga pagsisikap ng Kagawaran.

Sa kabuuan, sa loob ng mahigit apat na taong pagtitinghoy ng Kagawaran mula sa pagbigay ng pera ng National Agricultural and Fishery Council hanggang sa pagbigay ng kahon—ay nakatulong ito ang nasyonalidad na nakasuod ang mga kahirang pagkain at abot kapag pagkain at nakapagbigay ng kabuhayan sa mga tao.

Sa nagdiriwang na ito, pasibigang bakamalas ang magkabuhay para sa kahirang kinabukasan ng magsasaka sa Kagawaran, upang mapatuloy ang mga kabuhayan at matibong kinabukasan kapit ang mga kapwa natin. Hangad ng Kagawaran ang mga kabuhayan ng mga kapwa natin.

Kaya, mangyari kong ang dapong pagkabuhayan ng Kagawaran, mga magsasaka, mangingisda at iba pang bahin na nakakatulong sa pamahalaan at pagpapabuhay ng tonay at maipagpatuloy ang kanilang mga nasimulan at nakakatulong sa mga kapwa natin.

Isang maligaya at makabuluhang anibersaryo sa atong lahat!

Atty. Bernie G. Fondevilla
Secretary, Dep't. of Agriculture

Maligayang pagbati sa ating mananahan ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda at kawani ng kanilang mga pamilya ng ating Kagawaran sa ating pagdiriwang ng ika-113 anibersaryo ng Department of Agriculture.

Ang pagdiriwang na ito ay patunay lamang ng mga kasanayan sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda. Pareho na mga pamilyang ito ang nagsusumikap upang mapaunlad ang kanilang kabuhayan. Ang mga programa at proyekto ng Kagawaran ay nakatuon sa mga maliliit na magsasaka at mangingisda. Layon ng kapwa natin ang mga kasanayan sa pagpapatuloy.

Patuloy ito ng mga ahensya at planong ating ipinatupad, na tulad ng pagbigay ng pautang na may mababang interes, mga kagamitan at makinarya, at mga pasilidad sa pagpapatuyo at pagtatabi ng mga produkto. Ang mga programang ito ay nakatuon sa mga lugar na may malaking bilang ng mga mahihirap.

Ang mga tagumpay na ito ay hindi magiging posible kung wala ang pagsisikap at dedikasyon ng mga kawani ng Kagawaran. Sa kabila ng mga hamon at pagsubok, nagpakita kayo ng katatagan at determinasyon upang maisakatuparan ang mga programa at proyekto ng Kagawaran. Ang inyong mga sakripisyo ay hindi matatawaran at lubos na pinahahalagahan ng inyong mga kababayan.

Sa pagdiriwang ng ika-113 taong anibersaryo ng Kagawaran, hinihikayat ko kayong ipagpatuloy ang inyong mga nasimulan at tuparin ang mga pangako sa ating mga kababayan. Sama-sama nating tiyakin na ang mga susunod na taon ay magiging mas maunlad at mas maginhawa ang buhay ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda.

Mabuhay!

Salvador S. Salonga
DA Undersecretary
Chairman, Wash Steering Committee

DA celebrates 112th Anniversary

With the theme, Sagot na Pagkain ang Tonay na Kalayaan, the Department of Agriculture today observes its 113th anniversary led by Secretary Bernie G. Fondevilla.

The day-long activities kick-off at 8:30 am, with the unveiling of new and refurbished DA bronze markers and photo exhibit of agriculture accretions, from 1898 to the present, at the DA lobby.

Thereafter, DA officials, employees and guests are enjoined to attend a thanksgiving mass in honor of San Isidro Labrador, patron saint of peasants, at the DA-RSWM convention hall.

A simple program follows, the highlights of which are:

- Welcome remarks by Asst. Sec. Clayton Olalia
- Renewal of pledge as DA Mission / Vision, led by Sec. Fondevilla
- Awarding of loyalty plaques to DA family employees (who rendered 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service)
- Recognition of DA-OSEC employees who regularly donate blood to the National Kidney Transplant Institute
- Launch of DA-AFMIS and Nokia mobile data gathering system, and Online Import Application, Processing and Approval of Permit"
- Presentation of Old Certificate to the Philippines declaring parts of Luzon as FMD-free
- Awarding of top sales performers of DA Agribusiness Export Showroom
- Keynote Speech of Sec Fondevilla

After lunch, exhibition basketball and volleyball games will be held at the DA gym. Finally, at 4 pm there will be cocktails, wine-tasting and fashioning of tropical shoes at the DA lobby.

Actually, the anniversary celebration started Monday, June 21 with the distribution and feeding of dairy-rich and mirienggay lugaw and 'mairienggay' and 'salvard' ice cream to dozens of elementary schoolchildren. The milk was provided by the DA's National Dairy Authority, while the 'mairienggay lugaw' and ice cream were sponsored by the DA's Bureau of Plant Industry.

There is also a week-long 'lenggay' at the DA parking lot.

Agriculture Chiefs: Then and Now

On June 23, 1898, 11 days after President Emilio Aguinaldo declared Philippine independence, he created several major agencies under the 1st Philippine Republic. Among them was the Department of Agriculture and Industry, forerunner of the DA.

Since then, 35 agriculture chiefs ruled their respective realms in transforming the Philippine agriculture landscape to what it is now.

In a span of 112 years, the agency also underwent several transformations and changes of name, to wit:

- Department of Agriculture and Industry (1898-99)
- Insular Bureau of Agriculture (1901-08)
- Bureau of Agriculture (1910-16)
- Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources (1917-22)
- Dept. of Agriculture and Commerce (1932-45)
- Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources (1947-75)
- Department of Agriculture (1974-77)
- Ministry of Agriculture (1978-86)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food (1986-92)
- Department of Agriculture (1987-present)

Below are the DA Secretaries through the years:

1898-99 **Dept's of Agriculture and Manufacturing**
Director Jose Alejandrino
Dir. Constancio Gonzalez
Dir. Mariano Limjap-Apostol

1901-02 **Insular Bureau of Agriculture**
(under the Dept's of Interior)
Dir. Frank Lamson-Scribner

1903-05 Dir. W.C. Welliver

1907-08 Dir. George E. Person

1910-16 Dir. Frederick Taylor

Bureau of Agriculture

1916-16 Dir. Harry Edwards
Dir. Adriano Hernandez

Dep't of Agriculture & Natural Resources

1917-21 Sec. Gerardo Apacible

1921-22 Rafael Corpus

1922-23 Vicente Singson

1923-32 Rafael Alunan, Sr.

Dep't of Agriculture & Commerce

1932-34 Vicente Singson Encarnacion

1934-36 Ruperto G. Aquino, Sr.

1936-41 Benigno S. Aquino, Sr.

1941-42 Rafael Alunan, III

1945-46 Vicente Singson Encarnacion

1946-46 Mariano Garchitorena

Dep't of Agriculture & Natural Resources

1946-50 Placido L. Mapa

1950-53 Vice President Fernando Lopez

1953 Placido L. Mapa

1953-55 Salvador Araneta

1955-60 Juan O. Rodriguez

Jan-Aug 1961 Oscar Farinas

Sept-Dec 1961 Jose Locsin

1962-65 Benjamin M. Gozon

1965-66 Jose V. Feliciano

1965-70 1st Vice President Fernando Lopez

1972-75 Sec. Arturo M. Tanco, Jr.

1974 **DANR was split into Dep't. of Agriculture & Dep't of Natural Resources**

1978 Al Gov't. Departments
were transformed into Ministries)
Ministry of Agriculture

1978-86 Minister Arturo M. Tanco, Jr.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

1986-90 Min. Salvador H. Escudero III

1986-87 Min. Patrick S. Mata

Department of Agriculture

1987-88 Sec. Carlos G. Dominguez

1988-92 Sec. Florencio B. Abad

1992-95 Roberto S. Sebastian

1995-98 Salvador H. Escudero III

1998-00 William D. Dar

1999-2001 Edgardo J. Angara

Jan-Feb 2001 Domingo F. Panganiban

2001-03 Leonardo Q. Montemayor

2003-04 Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr.

2004-06 Arthur C. Yap

2006-08 Domingo F. Panganiban

2008-March 2010 Arthur C. Yap

March 2010-present Bernie G. Fondevilla

'GRAVE PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT'

SC suspends lawyers Lozano, daughter

By Dona Pazzibugan

LAWYER GLORIA LOZANO AND HER lawyer-daughter, Evangeline Lozano-Ilas, above, have been "indefinitely suspended" from practicing law for "grave professional misconduct."

The Supreme Court yesterday said the Lozanos were "unfit to continue to be entrusted with the duties and responsibilities belonging to the office of an attorney" since they have outgrossed and outwent the Constitution.

The suspension took effect immediately. The Lozanos were also warned that they would be disbarred from legal practice if it is proven that they violated the suspension order.

Lack of respect

In a statement, the high court said the Lozanos showed "a reckless lack of respect and disregard for our system of justice" when they filed without any basis a criminal complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman against former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and retired Associate Justice Minita Asuncion-Martinez.

The Lozanos filed the graft complaint against the two retired justices for reversing the findings of the Court of Appeals in the consolidated cases of the heirs of Antonio Puri v. Ch and Investments CA.

The high court dismissed the complaint for lack of merit last March 2 and ordered the Lozanos to explain why they should not be sanctioned.

In a Full Court resolution, the Supreme Court said the Lozanos' misquotations and misuse of constitutional provisions were bad enough. But those were aggravated when they filed a complaint against two magistrates for issuing an unfavorable verdict.

"Charging a magistrate with issuing an unjust ruler verdict without any legal or factual basis not only wrongly discredits the magistrate, but encourages as well similar actions that ultimately may weaken and undermine public confidence in the Court and its members and bring the whole justice system to disrepute," the high tribunal said.

Misquoting the Charter

It said magistrates cannot be sued for graft based on the legal correctness of their case decisions.

The high court was also angered by the Lozanos' misleading use of a provision in the 1973 Constitution to justify their case.

"At this point... the Court can no longer be bashful to firmly and clearly drawing the line and be holding the Lozanos fully responsible for their gross transgressions of ethical rules and the canons of the legal profession," it said.

Lozano represented former First Lady Imelda Marcos in the past and initiated several impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo which were eventually dismissed by the House of Representatives for lacking in substance.

Other offenders

Another lawyer and a retired judge were also meted disciplinary sanctions by the high court.

Lawyer James Benedict Florido was suspended from practicing law for a year for violating the Code of Professional Responsibility. Florido was sanctioned for leading his clients, the minority stockholders of the Rural Bank of Calape in Bohol, in the forcible takeover of the bank premises and management last April 1, 2000, without a valid court order.

The high court fined retired Judge Jovencito Carbonell of the San Fernando City, La Union regional trial court's Branch 67, P10,000 for simple misconduct.

Carbonell was the subject of a complaint by his fellow judge, Rhonda De Judge Mora Lim Tabora, who claimed that Carbonell had no authority to issue a decision in a particular civil case as she had already assumed her duties and was performing her functions in court.

The high court also found that Carbonell had directly furnished the litigant a copy of his decision in violation of court guidelines.

It ruled that the P30,000 fine he declared from Carbonell's retirement benefits which have been withheld.

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Not one of 3 Senate president bets has numbers

By Christine O. Avendaño

NONE OF THOSE SEEKING THE Senate presidency in the next Congress, including himself, has the numbers yet to clinch it, Sen. Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

"I am convinced no one has the 13 votes at this point," Drilon said in reference to the number of votes required to elect the Senate president.

Drilon, his Liberal Party colleague Sen. Francis Pangilinan and blaconalista Party president Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. are contesting the post.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, in ally of Pangilinan and Villar, had earlier vowed that their camp had the numbers to win the Senate presidency, saying unlike Drilon, who served as Senate president during the Estrada and Arroyo administrations, and who has been quiet about his chances.

Drilon yesterday said the Liberal Party would decide who between him and Pangilinan would be fielded for the top Senate post after President-elect Benigno Aquino III is sworn into office on June 30.

He also said he did not know if it was true that Aquino's camp is lobbying hard for Pangilinan.

He said he had not talked with Noy about the matter and that he respected her decision.

But "if the reports are true," he is "saddened" by Noy' move, Drilon said.

He said he had served the Aquino siblings' mother, former President Corazon Aquino, "till the last days of her life."

Rights chief to head justice department in pursuit of grafters

From page A1

Aquino had earlier told the business that the justice portfolio was very crucial in his fight against corruption. He said his justice secretary would serve as his attack dog in pushing corruption cases against the Arroyo family and its allies, cronies, drug lords and smuggling.

He singled out rice smuggling in the business.

He had also said his idea of a justice secretary was the big enforcer Ateneo cause fighter Elliot Soo, who went after tycoon Al Capone.

"We will file cases against people who are not small fry.

"[The justice secretary] will be the face of the prosecution. So I will tell the prospective candidates for the post: Are you ready? Is your family? There will be a drastic change in your lifestyle; even your children could be at risk," Aquino had said, adding that he had narrowed down qualified candidates who were too old to meet his goals.

LAST CABINET MEETING President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro lead the Cabinet secretaries in prayer at their last Cabinet meeting in Malacañang on Tuesday. PHOTO BY ROY DOMINGO

Many posts filled

On Monday, the President, after meeting with the prospective members of his Cabinet, including Executive Secretary-designate Paquito Ochoa, his chief of staff Julia Abad, former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Makati Business Club executive director Alberto Lim (appointed by the incoming tourism secretary), former Bureau of Internal Revenue executive Jun Simmons and former President Pat Secretary Group head Voltaire Gazmin (reportedly in-coming defense chief).

Drilon, who also served previously as Senate president, is believed to be among those in the running for the post.

Before, who served previously as Senate president, is believed to be among those in the running for the post.

Before, who served previously as Senate president, is believed to be among those in the running for the post.

Before, who

Malcolm Madness: UP Law '85 to hold fundraising concert

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES College of Law Class of 1985, which celebrates this year its 25th anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of Dean George A. Malcolm as a professor of law in the Philippines, will hold a fundraising concert on Friday.

Entitled "Malcolm Madness! 25 A.G. (After Graduation)," the concert will feature the Bloodhoods band and will be in 8 p.m. at the Tourism in Promenade, Greenhills.

The proponents of the concert are Cayetano Office Systems Corp. of UP Law Class '85 member Reynaldo Cayco-Suarez; the Law Offices of Mary Carmen S. Madrid-Cruz (Class '85); the Chapchapinpin Study Group of lawyers Cing Gonzales-Montelola, Jay Jerez, Benny Padilla, Rito Quimson, Ruy Rondain, Sammy Santiago and Cupper Cayetano; San Miguel Corp., and Hyundai Asia Resources Inc.

Academic scholarships

Dan Gatmaytan, event all chairperson of the fundraising concert, said that apart from hosting the UP Law Grand Alumni Homecoming Ball on Nov. 19 in the Shangri-La Hotel, Makati, the silver jubilarians will underwrite the renovation of the Dean's Office and the construction of a discussion/conference room in the vicinity of the UP College of Law.

Bachelor Grace Asuncion, UP Law '85 chairperson of the steps and arrows committee, said the batch is also hoping to fund academic scholarships and support the activities of the college for the benefit of the students and faculty this year.

For details and ticket reservations, contact any member of the Fundraising Committee composed of Dan Gatmaytan, Audrey Evelyn Bautista, Tipo Bito Jasul, Ani Nina, Melvin Evangelista Mickey, Rene Saguisag, Buendia, Bong Soareno, Melton Bagadiono Sahiburden, Mike Toledo and Jake Mejia or the UP Law Class '85 Secretariat Office through Kris Tomlinsanta at 352 2680 or 09154009454.

Eco awards for 'green' crusaders

ENVIRONMENTAL technology solution provider Ecosystem Technologies Inc. (ETI) marks its 15th anniversary tomorrow with a thanksgiving dinner at the Rajadon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila, Makati City.

The highlight of the celebration will be a recognition ceremony where the company will honor personalities who share the company's vision and advocacy of caring for the environment.

Heading the list of honorees are Pasig Commissioner Rebolledo, and ADS-CBN Foundation Managing Director Gina Lopez, Sen. Pia Cayetano, Makati Mayor-elect Erwin Pimog, Senators Rebolledo de Apollo and Climate Change Commissioner Heherson Alvarez who have shown active concern for environmental issues and have served as inspirations to the Filipino people.

Through its experience and technical expertise in the field of wastewater treatment, ETI supports various environmental projects which involve the provision of clean and safe water for sustainability. Recently, it formed a partnership with ABS-CBN's Kapit-Bisig Para sa Ilog Pasig project in the rehabilitation of the Pasig River. Since 1998, ETI has designed and built over 200 wastewater treatment plants.

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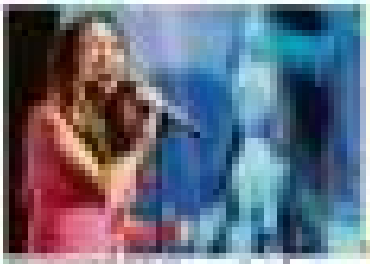

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OPINION

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Open arms

EDITORIAL

OUR ASIAN NEIGHBORS HAVE EMBRACED BOTH foreign students and foreign institutions of higher learning, on principles similar to that followed by the People's Republic of China in welcoming foreign investments: It's a means for accelerating technology transfer. Filipinos are, of course, familiar with the benefits of exposure to education abroad. It was the reason by which the illustrados familiarized themselves with advances overseas and became exponents of national self-determination. The sending of government scholars or *pensionados* has been a generations-old means to upgrade the skills and learning of individuals the state believes can help propel nation-building efforts. Asian nations have done this since the 19th century: the Japanese and Thais implemented a rigorous policy of sending its best minds to study abroad to help modernize their nations.

Since the 1970s, however, Philippine administrations and many educational institutions have pursued a policy of resisting efforts to open up the educational system to foreigners. While foreign students have traditionally encountered a hospitable environment in the country, rules and regulations governing most professions prohibit foreigners from practicing those professions, even if they obtain a Philippine diploma. On the other hand, over the same period, Filipinos have sought every opportunity to practice their professions abroad, under circumstances that are, in terms of regulations, often much more accommodating.

The Bureau of Immigration recently announced that there has been a 20-percent increase in the number of foreigners enrolled in Philippine schools. Up to 6,418 foreigners have been issued student visas, with 5,071 being newcomers while 4,548 are studying students. We believe that this is welcome news, and should receive the support of the government. There is no obstacle to schools, for example, charging full or even adding a premium to tuition for foreign students, which, if properly pursued, can open up avenues for hard-pressed educational institutions to maintain quality by improving revenue.

There is a cultural dimension to foreign students coming to the Philippines as well. Exposure to foreign cultures can serve as the best bridge between nations; it can improve and strengthen cultural ties; and in terms of knowledge of the way the world works, there is much to be gained from foreigners becoming familiar with our society and us becoming familiar with our foreign neighbors.

There is an economic dimension as well, with its pros and cons but which, we believe, has benefits that, properly managed, can outweigh the disadvantages of foreigners coming to study in the Philippines. It is an important for regional growth: enrollments are remarkable in Baguio, Angeles, Iloilo, Cebu and Davao. Property rentals, tutorial services and so many other business benefits from foreign students coming here, and can sometimes make the difference between having to leave or being able to stay, for our own qualified teachers and instructors.

Less talk, more action

FOREIGN COMMENT

BY'S COMMITMENT CAP WHICH THE COMPANY SAID surpassed 31,100 barrels of oil June 6, is the company's first substantial progress in reducing the amount of oil escaping into the Gulf of Mexico.

That's an important development, and Lemieux can hopefully that the strategy may further control the massive spill while relief wells are completed. After all, thousands of barrels of oil still are flowing into the Gulf of Mexico every day.

In any case, BP CEO Tony Hayward and other BP officials need to stop their chest-thumping. Hayward said the cap was catching "probably the vast majority" of the oil, even though estimates of the total amount spilling from BP's well are as high as 60,000 barrels a day.

As Grace Conde' tells Thad Allen said, the emergency is far from over and no one "should be pleased as long as there's oil in the water." He warned against creating "any undo encouragement," and said BP "needs to under promise and over deliver."

Hayward and his BP brethren should heed those words.

Hayward said his company would "make good on our promises" to reward. "We're going to clean up the oil. We're going to remediate any environmental damage. And we are going to return the Gulf Coast to the position it was in before this accident occurred."

What Louisianians want from BP, Mr. Hayward, is less talking and more doing. The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

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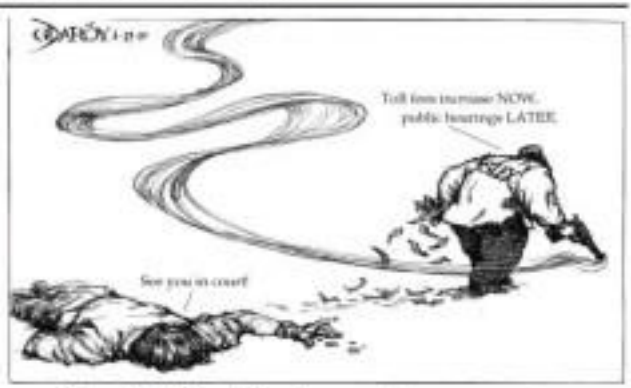


The Vice President's amazing scenario

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FOR SHEER AUDACITY AND OBJURGATORY nothing can beat the reason given by Vice President Jejomar Binay de Castro in recommending to outgoing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the approval of a conduit Chief for the payment of P9.4 billion by the government to B-E Builders of Boglos Romero for the unfinished Embassy Manila Development Project (EMDP). De Castro said he only recommended the deal's approval because he thought that the government, for its owners, financing! Why did the Vice President recommend the payment of P1.4 billion if he knew the GSIS government is bankrupt? Because, he said, the government is having court cases anyway so it might as well get it over with, finally winning!

If the Arroyo government is bankrupt and the deal is approved anyway, did he by chance expect the Aquino government to pay it?

Also, under the falsified agreement, the government would have paid Romero with unissued lands if the government does not have the money for it.

De Castro said he has no axe to grind. But apparently, for why did he endorse it to the President?

The deal was not signed. De Castro said later, "in what crime was committed?" Hasn't he heard of the 225,000 dead? It was not signed but now criminal charges have been filed against former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and outgoing GSIS president Romulo Neri. Has De Castro not heard of the crimes of attempted murder and bribery?

To be fair to B-E, it is not going to get the whole P9.4 billion had the deal been validated. The loan's share would have gone to the Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC), which would, in turn, pay the participants to the asset pool for IMEMP. B-E would get only the drugs, what remains of the land after all the fabulous are paid.

It was Federico Lam, general manager of the National Housing Authority (NHA), who asked for the release of P4.4 billion and De Castro, in an office visit than that of HGC, endorsed it approved to DBM.

Charges of violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act have been filed with the Office of the Ombudsman by a taxpayer, Ligaya Bayad, against De Castro, along with Finance Secretary Margarita Teves, Romulo Benjamin A. Rongcales, president of BCC Lam and Romero.

De Castro and Teves were included as respondents, the complaint said, "because of their indispensable participation as regards the approval of the terms and conditions embodied in the Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) and Compromise Agreement (CA), by reason of their positions as chairman and co-chair of the Home Guaranty Corp., they should have studied the Joint Venture Agreement in connection to the MOA and CA which terms and conditions embodied therein could not have been approved without their prior imprimatur."

Under the EMDP, B-E is supposed to fully finance, at an initial cost of P6 billion, the reclamation of 79 hectares from Manila Bay for the government's mixed housing program on the Sanchez Mountain area. However, the proposed MOA-CA provides that the financing for the said project will be undertaken by banks and other financial institutions; the repayment of which will be guaranteed by the HGC.

* * *

Only a few days are left of the Aquino administration but her co-terminous officials, including Romulo Neri of the Social Security System, Lucio the Infrascorp, FIX #001 scandal, are still trying to have their relatives and protégés appointed to well-paying government positions.

In the SSS, Neri's nephew, Antonio Aldaya-Neri, to whom he brought with him as special assistant to the president and chief executive officer (CEO), wants to stay as permanent deputy CEO when his appointment expires. He filed his application for the position (one with Social Security) Commission (SSC) Chair Thelma Cinamon who endorsed it favorably to the SSC.

However, career officers of the SSS towards the reconciliation policies of the SSC (under the selection of deputy CEO and thus president and allow the incoming administration of President-elect Benigno Aquino III to exercise its right to select the key officers "who would uphold the directions and strategic goals and vision" of his administration for the SSS.

"Delivering the selection of key personnel to the SSS and SSC not only exemplifies a strong sense of propriety on the part of the outgoing administration but also demonstrates respect for the incoming leadership and the greater public good," the career officers said.

Let's face it, the appointment at this late date of the second in command of the SSS is nothing more than a meaningful appointment that is prohibited by law. It is a blatant attempt to entangle him into the SSS in the closing days of the GMA administration. The Aquino administration will have no choice but to nullify the appointment.

Schwarzenegger is an electrical engineer, not a financial executive. What will he do at the SSS, inspect its electrical wiring? He was brought in by Neri only a few months ago when he was transferred by GSIS to the SSS from the National Economic Development Authority. Now he would be jumping over the heads of career officials who have been working in the SSS for decades. How can you justify that? Only on the basis of favoritism. Favoritism can jump over the heads of veteran career officers. Mabuyo nemen kayo!

* * *

Anyway, you look at the 256 percent increase in the bid rates for the SLEX is scandalously high. That's greed. Just the company spent for the improvement of SLEX but it doesn't have to get it all back all at once from the public. It will have a multiplier effect on the price of goods.

And what's with the Bolidelo bypass road thing? That is what it is there for. So repairs the toll to make it fair to both the SLEX company and the public.

After midnight

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE ONE THING THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION should be concerned about is not the midnight appointments, it is the midnight killings. Specifically the midnight killings of journalists. The people who have grudges against journalists are trying to make hay while the sun shines, or make day while Glibs eclipses, and have crawled out of their holes like a tribe of swarms.

These killings in five days are something journalists only to see been coincident like Iraq and Afghanistan. Well, Iraq and Basra have always been way ten in that respect, waging war against journalists. The killings follow the pattern of past killings: geography wise, occurring preponderantly down south and up north, in various places in Mindanao and the provinces of northern Luzon. Indeed, the killings follow the pattern of past killings, method wise, done in reasonably good light if not broad daylight, in plain view of witnesses, the killers in no perfect hurry, pausing to make sure their mission do not see another mission.

Nestor Belchez, a man in his 40s, a councilman in the local world, Eastipalor, was buying cigarettes in a fairly well-lit store in Dipot, Davao del Sur, in early evening when he was gunned down. The assailant pumped six bullets into him just to make sure he would be dead, then walked calmly to a waiting motorcycle driven by an accomplice. Bystanders brought Belchez to the hospital, but he was dead on arrival.

Some days before that, Jonelito Agustin, 37, a radio commentator, was gunned down early morning in his home in Iriga City, Camarines. He had just finished an edition of his dzIC program, "Lunay City By Day Iliran Bante By Night." The assailants were two persons on board a motorcycle. Agustin died on the spot.

The day before that, Bonifacio Camangyan, 52, a radio broadcaster of Bombo Radyo Philippines, Ilocos Oriental, was hosting a singing contest when death struck him. He was about to sit down after introducing a contestant when someone climbed the back of the stage and shot him twice in the head. The alleged gunman escaped.

Camangyan was known for his hard-hitting commentaries against illegal logging and illegal gambling activities in the province. He was also known to have received death threats from people he had criticized in his radio broadcasts.

Then, on June 13, Rodolfo Reyes, 57, a radio broadcaster of dzRH Aksyon Radyo in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen in front of his house in Barangay Sta. Monica. Reyes was known for his hard-hitting commentaries against illegal logging and illegal fishing activities in the province. He was also known to have received death threats from people he had criticized in his radio broadcasts.

Reyes was the fifth broadcaster killed in the country since President Benigno Aquino III assumed office on June 30, 2010. Four of the broadcasters were killed in the provinces, while one was killed in Metro Manila.

That is where I am particularly incensed by the murders of broadcasters. Agustin in Camarines, I like to go much further by journalists outside Metro Manila. It puts the shame more starkly to those in principled and you could die, be unprincipled and you could get rich. A journalist in the provinces manages to be honest, that is already a feat in itself. A journalist in the province manages to be courageous, that deserves nothing less than a medal, though each should do better those who earn a pittance for their work. A journalist in the province who is reasonably honest and unreasonably courageous gets murdered, that shouts to the heavens for redress. Life does not go on with something like that, it is put on hold.

Bolidelo, Agustin and Camangyan, to go by the reports, were not journalists had been writing exposés about a local politician in Davao del Sur, Agustin had been raiding against corruption by local public officials in Iriga town, and Camangyan had been speaking out against gangs involved in illegal logging in Ilocos Oriental. Those are not journalists, our bosses might not have been writing for Enrique's. So what? Journalism in the provinces make do with all sorts of arrangements, often ironic, to survive. That doesn't mean he wasn't a journalist, and that doesn't mean his stance didn't owe to a sense of journalistic commitment. And those who has not will hear all sorts of things said about the dead not really having been in print in the dozen once in life, its what? That doesn't mean they weren't courageous mostly as well as physically despite their failings, that doesn't mean they didn't live up to their calling as journalists.

I know the point is to seek justice for all the victims of the killings under GMA irrespective of profession. But there's something especially urgent about finding it for those who left their families in a state of semi-destitution, whose loved ones lived a life hoping for their heroes to see their worst fears confirmed, whose lamentations you can hear even now as they embrace the coffins that contain what's left of them, just as they could have, just as they could have been listeners, just as they could hear silence to their cries.

The one thing the incoming administration should do something about is cut the midnight appointments, it is the midnight killings.

No room for complacency

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

PRESIDENT-ELECT BENIGNO AQUINO III (BS) throws overboard a few traditions to define his administration and emphasize its contrast with the departing government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He will take his oath of office before Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, the first woman justice to swear in a president, in a sharp rebuke of the "midnight appointments" of Renato Corona as chief justice in the period between Aquino's election and Ms Arroyo's departure from office on June 30. Corona's appointment sparked the first turbulence that tainted the transition to the new administration.

Aquino signaled the discontinuity of his incoming administration with the exiting regime with the decision to have his armed forces chief of staff, Gen. Delfin Bangit, an appointee of Ms Arroyo, with another senior general. The chastised Bangit went on early retirement from military service yesterday.

Notable signs of his proclamation as president-elect, Aquino set aside the issue of succession, and rejected the policy prescription of the outgoing government to raise taxes to free up spending fiscal deficit.

While deputies followed old practice of taking his oath of office (but his consolidated and debilitating list transgressed upends, he dispensed with the pomp and pageantry of a parade, a tradition that started with the inauguration of the Philippine Commonwealth in 1935, to "save money." The list traditionally runs to 10 pages or more.

None of the above decisions involving discontinuity indicated boldness in making changes on the part of Aquino. There are no hints from these decisions that Aquino is about to unleash in his inaugural speech an agenda of sweeping change in the first 100 days. Neither are there decisions of frontal preparations and excitement in Aquino's more stole-core initiatives that would shake the nation during the traditional "honeymoon period," to the manner that President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched his New Deal program in 1933 to drive the United States to recovery from the Great Depression that started with the 1929 Great Crash of the stock market in Wall Street. There is no sign that Aquino and his team are driven by a sense of urgency to inject dynamism in the economy that has weathered the recession of the past two years. In fact, the Aquino group appears to be complacent that he is inheriting an economy that posted an atypical 7.3 percent growth in the first quarter of 2010.

The Philippine quarterly update of the World Bank predicts the economy to grow by 5.2 percent in 2010, and 5.8 percent in 2011. The growth increase from 2010 to 2011 is expected to be moderate given the "projected slow global recovery, the projected acceleration of the unwinding monetary and fiscal policy stimuli, and more binding constraints arising from growth bottlenecks."

These projections leave no room for complacency and warns the next government that it has much to do to push growth, although it enjoys an advantage because of the high ratings of investors' confidence in the economy, boosted by the optimism flowing from the election of a non-patrician in relatively free and honest elections and the expectation of political reforms under the new regime. There is more resistance to do the necessities of the next government in the imminent jumps and clean-up of corruption carried from sections of the outgoing government.

The tradition of the first 100 days is both a blessing and curse in Philippine politics. It is a widely accepted notion in Philippine politics, de-

rived from the tradition of the American presidential system, that a new presidency is made or unmade in its first 100 days. Thus, there is a cliché that a new president should begin his term "during the ground running."

It is also true that the euphoria of the first 100 days can dissipate quickly if the president squanders the opportunities to launch initiatives for political and economic reforms. Recent studies have shown that such euphoria has been validated only by the experiences of a few presidencies, most notably the New Deal initiatives of Roosevelt, pushed through in a Democratic Party-controlled Congress, to jumpstart America's economic recovery in the midst of the Great Depression. Most of the key New Deal legislation were unleashed on Congress and passed during the remaining 100 days in office, taking advantage of his political honeymoon.

Although Aquino was elected by a landslide and received the biggest plurality since 1986, he is not assured of control of Congress this party, the Liberal Party, holds only a fraction of the seats in the 286-plus membership of the House of Representatives. He has to cobble together a coalition of small parties, the Nacionalista Party and the Nationalist People's Coalition, and defectors from the former ruling coalition Lakas-CMD, Kampi to form a working majority that will approve his initiatives.

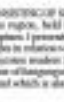
Control of the Senate is even more uncertain. There are three or four blocs in the multi-party composition of the Senate, with each of these blocs controlling only four or five votes.

Aquino seems to be taking his preparations for his takeover steadily in a matter-of-fact manner, giving the impression that he is not partly but wholly not a concrete majority in Congress, for administration-minded leaders to lure those pushing for legislative initiatives. Congress needs a "hard taskmaster to whip its members into line. To take more stick than carrots to get things done in Congress, to members do not respect and follow a philippinistic president. Aquino has to show that he has fire in the belly.

SUND

THE SCIENCE CLINIC OF ASIA, CONSISTENCIAL SLEEPOCK research councils from throughout the region, held its 10th conference last week here in the Philippines. I presented a paper on the need to look at cultural angles in relation to health and illness. I thought I'd share with readers readers the ones study I used in my paper. This is the case of Sangguyot, which I've written about in other columns, and which is also—mercifully, described in my book "Surviving Utang, Pamisa, Kasi." As the author, I can attest to the accuracy of the original and similar schemes.

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Sudden Unexplained Nocturnal Death Syndrome (SUND) is a term first used by the US Centers for Disease Control to refer to a number of Hmong-American adult males who died in their sleep. Since then, SUND has come to be a name in a particular culture, for example sang and pamisa. They do not have exact equivalents in Western biomedicine but are very real in the sense that they cause distress, suffering, pain and sometimes even death.

One of the folk illnesses covered by SUND is bangungot, which I can mean both a nightmare as well as a pathological condition with the same name that is fatal.

The folk explanation for bangungot is that the victim is overcome with fear by going to bed right after a full meal, has nightmares and might even die if unable to regain control of his body. Victims are supposed to struggle a lot at finger to regain that control. People who are susceptible are also advised not to sleep alone because if they have an attack, someone should be around to wake him up.

Note that the Ilokanos attribute bangungot to bisitos, a supernatural creature described as an old woman. If the bisitos's duwilling is disturbed, she wreaks vengeance by sitting on the victim's chest when he's sleeping, eventually causing death.

The further explanation reminds us of a universal recognition of problems relating to sleep, with further this characteristic reported in many other cultures. The English word nightmare itself is derived from "night" and "mare," a female horse, referring to the feeling of heavy animal (the mare) as a spirit sitting on the chest.

What are the medical studies that have been conducted on bangungot? An early report published in 1933 and involving autopsies of bangungot victims found pancreatitis, which was attributed to our high salt and high carbohydrate (rice) diets. Other reports in American journals involved apparently healthy Filipino young men who died in their sleep in the US. The reports repeated earlier theories about diet and pancreatic dysfunction.

In the 1970s, several unexplained deaths among apparently healthy men were reported among Hmong refugees who had migrated to the United States. US Centers for Disease Control researchers in the town of Wausau in Wisconsin began to dub cases (pronounced da chai), which again translates the supernatural. The term might was explored here.

In 1980 and 1981, several deaths were reported in Singapore among Thai construction workers. The Thai term for the ailment was lai-tai "sleep death). Medical investigations ruled out cardiac problems and pancreatic deficiency as causes.

In the reports on SUND, there are also frequent references to the Japanese pokkuri or sudden death. Japanese researchers, usually forensic experts, point to cardiac problems, with probable dietary factors, as the cause of death.

Bangguk syndrome

Two recent books, "Pathophysiological Disorders of the Heart" (2005) and "Pathology of the Heart and Sudden Death" (2006), discuss these folk illnesses as Brugada syndrome. The syndrome is believed to be genetic in origin, causing problems in the heart. A partial catalog of Brugada syndrome's deaths include those in Japan (as 1,000 people), said to be favored to be higher in Southeast Asia. They could mean that for the Philippines with 90 million people, there would be almost 600,000 people with this condition. As we are in fact, Brugada's syndrome seems to "favor" men, with a ratio of 8 males for every 1 female.

I find the Brugada explanation somewhat convincing but may not provide all the answers about bangungot and similar folk illnesses. Biomedical research still needs to look for its possible overlap with other cardiac problems, sleep apnea, nocturnal disorders.

I would also look more into the stress element, both at the individual and societal levels. Medical anthropologists and social scientists have long noted that stress can affect individuals, individuals and societies can talk about particular feelings and opinions. A simple example comes with the "headache." We say we get headaches from the high cost of living, or from politics, or from disagreeable work colleagues.

The similarities of bangungot, lai tai, duh tonnin are striking and they may affect people away from their homelands in the US "Navy Hmong refugees, Thai construction workers in Singapore, Ilocos in the Philippines, bangungot is known to be common among construction workers who have to live in their work site, away from their families. Many are also migrants from rural areas.

I say, in bangungot, an idiom of distress and anxiety coming from being away from home. Filipino stress attachment to the home, to when away from home, they self-complain about insomnia, constipation or other mild ailments, and attribute that to surroundings, the dislocated body longing for home. I suggest that bangungot reflects even more anxieties over this kind of displacement.

Insomnia, stress

The social sciences are important for leaning out the cross-cultural differences. I have mentioned pokkuri as one of the folk illnesses now described as possibly being one manifestation of Brugada Syndrome. Yes, Susan Lang, in her book "Sex and Sexy Japanese Culture and Choice in the End-of-Life," writes that some elderly Japanese actually go to pokkuri temples where they pray for pokkuri, a sudden and peaceful death with minimal suffering. Pokkuri in this context is desirable, apparently a good death.

We need more social science inquiries and investigations that probe into individual and group meanings and experiences around illnesses, as well as social theories that might be developing into useful interventions, for example coping in Japan or displacement and migration among the Ilocos and Filipinos.

I would explore bangungot among our many overseas Filipinos as well as internal migrants. I would also look at bangungot in times of disaster. One of the other speakers at the conference, Dr. Carol Sobieszczyk, talked about how disaster management programs, especially get out with family history, the stress of disasters could also trigger bangungot, especially in relocation centers.

Multidisciplinary cross-cultural research around these folk illnesses have many possible applications. The findings could help health professionals to draw up better screening and prevention, as psychiatrists and others explain what they know of signs of symptoms, susceptibilities and family history. Understanding the stress angle might even help us with these spins for people who are susceptible.

Email: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

Life skills for parents

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I WAS ONCE TAGGING WITH AN OFFICER OF A so-called "pro-life" organization who was earnestly discussing why certain portions of the "RH bill" worried him. "It would prevent parents from teaching their own children about sex, negating as it supposedly our parental rights to their children and teachers" he explained.

For some reason, his words touched a chord in me. Maybe it was because I am parent myself, at both of two adults. Maybe it was the tone of genuine parental concern in his voice that told me that his views were sincere and not just rhetorical devices. Or maybe it was just tired of hearing this and other misconceptions about the bill over and over again.

"I don't think the bill seems to do that," I began. "And even if it seemed to do that, I would still vote for it and it is passed, no law could ever stop me from being a good parent. I would teach my children about sex and other issues in the best way I know how, reflecting my own and my husband's values. That is part of parenting, and no law could abridge my right as a parent making out for the best interests of my child."

In fact, I would challenge law enforcers to open our ears and every household in this country and examine what is being taught in them. Don't all those of the "politically correct" version of sex education, Chances are, all over the country, in families of all stripes and sympathies, parents are already teaching their children about sex, with or without the knowledge of the government. And they are still using the wealth information at with myself-mentioned beliefs, mentioned by the wish to avoid scare or by fear of scandal and their children's budding sexuality, and even with shame and denial.

There are many ways to teach: by words and charts and group discussions, by example, with television and censorship, and by honest dialogue. What worries me is that too many parents believe that by sending the children of their children's sexuality, the "problem" will go away on its own.

* * *

THE LATEST news is that a failed senatorial candidate with a small political party has filed suit with a Quezon City court to declare the RH bill the Supreme Court of Education forces implement-

ing the new sex education modules.

Both the DepEd and 106 agencies which helped draft the guidelines and provided training for the teachers prefer to call the modules "life skills," explaining that these courses were not just sexuality and reproductive health, but also overall health and hygiene as well as avoiding risky behaviors or situations that would put them at risk.

Those modules would be integrated into several subjects in Grade 5 and 6, covering topics like "learning about the body, personal hygiene, coping with peer pressure and making responsible decisions." In high school, such lessons "move on to helping students understand the consequences of unplanned pregnancy, risky behaviors and the impact these have on their future."

* * *

IN A JUNE/MAY, 120 agencies in the Philippines discovered that more than half (54%) of the DepEd's "life skills" modules "focusing people growing up in the Philippines are exposed to confusing and contradicting life skills information from the media and other popular sources. In that context, they foster a greater need than ever for clear, accurate information coming from a trusted source. While parents have an important role to play, young people also need those in authority, such as teachers or doctors, who can help them accept and understand the physical changes they face."

Vandeuse suggests that given an absence of reliable information, young people do not always make the best choices."

The statement then cites studies conducted around the world that show that "giving young people information to adolescents does not increase promiscuity but helps them make responsible decisions."

Indeed, parents don't know everything and can't be around all the time. Often, we've the last know about our children's sex lives...or just what goes on during their gonimbis, but many important, grey-area issues they encounter.

Which is why when our children were teens, I was grateful to their teachers and other adults who were around to supplement our own feeble attempts at imparting life skills, imparting information and guidance with more credibility and authority than we could muster.

So go ahead and let the first kinds of parents you can be, and be grateful to the teachers who step into your shoes when you can't always be around.

* * *

HERE'S good news for all who've wanted to get back at their doctors—to jeer, to cheer, to express gratitude or just to have fun.

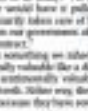
"Doctors Sing for their Patients" is a concert scheduled for July 9 at the Music Museum featuring physicians who want to literally raise their voices in help patients with kidney problems. The concert is in behalf of the Kidney Foundation Philippines, Inc., a non-stock, non-profit organization that aims to empower patients with kidney failure "to get educated and enlightened to start businesses so that they can better address their medical needs."

Hosted by Leah Navarro and with special guests Jose Mari Chan and Bituin Escalante, "Doctors Sing for their Patients" features singing stars led by Angelica Asuncion, Marichu Maceda, Jaime de Guzman, Mike Gonzalez, Pelabello, and Blanchet Pile; nephrologists Madeleine Rivas, Susan Cabral, Marivel Carlos-gil, Richard Elicon, Jean Paulo Lagunzad, Jessie Lumbao, Gina Diamonth, and Glenda Gloria; Pediatrics, gastroenterologists Stella Domingo and Jude Jimino; otolaryngologist Theresa Marie Feller; transplant surgeon Ronald Anthony Feller; cardiologist Isidro Jimenez; and medicine resident Vivian Lee.

For inquiries and ticket sales at 426-7383 or 0n. Ginger Fontecha at 09.27-6589 133.

Heritage: how and why

LOOKING BACK



Andrew R. Gonzalez

HERITAGE ADVOCATES USING WEB MEDIA like Facebook and Twitter have successfully featured public attention on the housing controversy over the centuries-old Alberto House in Bifan, Laguna. The house has seen better days, and it is woefully out of place in the center of a town that is a textbook example of creeping suburbanization. It is said to be the last "grand" house in Bifan after the famous Espinosa house was stripped of its antiques and torn down decades ago. In the past decade the owners of the Alberto House have been in dialogue with the National Historical Commission to find ways to preserve the house.

Then Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz-Araneta thereafter related in the Alberto's initiated many meetings that did not yield any viable alternative, except the recent acquisition of the house by Ayala's because who has begun to dismantle the house in order to rebuild only its presence. It is a heritage village in Batangas. It is not a perfect solution, but the best that can be made at the moment. Unfortunately, this is in the game heritage advocates are fighting to keep the house on site without providing a concrete solution for its preservation and revitalization. Ayala's has the resources to do this once and we hope people will take down and attempt to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

The Alberto House is historical because final lived there when he was a student in the school of commerce, now the Ateneo. His mother, Isabelo Montes, also lived there because she was related to the Alberto family. Despite these historical connections, the house remains private property. It is not a declared National Historical Landmark. The same is also true of the Aguinaldo Mansion in Cavite

*If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by this inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 12th Floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 12th Floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 12th Floor

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT - THE TRUTH AND THE LIES BEHIND THE PETC SYSTEM ISSUE

Stradcom Corporation would like to respectfully let the public and the incoming Administration know the truth behind the issues being raised against it by unnamed groups who cannot even divulge their identities to the public. We would like to deny all the lies and false representations against Stradcom Corporation that have been spreading in order to deflect public interest from their unscrupulous practices that directly harm the ordinary motorist.

The ad that came out last Friday, June 18 in the Philippine Daily Inquirer is clearly meant to deflect attention from the issues surrounding the Private Emission Testing Centers interconnectivity system. Here are the truths behind this issue:

THE TRUTH

- PETC IT providers have been quietly charging the public up to 80 pesos for a "service" that costs far less than that. They have been making huge profits at the expense of the ordinary motorists for the last 3 years

- PETC IT providers are not accountable to anyone. The PETC IT Providers never went through any transparent process of bidding with the government and are not accountable in whatever way to the checks and balances in the national government such as the Commission on Audit (COA)

- PETC IT providers have increased their fees from 50 - 80 pesos without any public consultation and without any government approval. They have been unilaterally charging the public without any public accountability whatsoever

- PETC IT providers are middlemen in a system that can be done more efficiently and effectively and at a far lower cost than what they a presently charging

- There have been repeated allegations that THE PETC IT providers own Private Emission Testing Centers which is a clear case of CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

- Many Private Emission Testing Centers such as the Association of PETC Owners and Operators for Environmental Protection have complained of the UNFAIR practices of the PETC IT providers because of their preferential treatment for the PETC's that they own at the expense of the smaller PETCs.

- Many PETCs have also complained of unjustified and outrageous reconnection fees charged by the PETC IT providers amounting to 100,000 pesos for each PETC.

- After more than 3 years in operation, and after having made millions in profits, the practice of non-appearance of motor vehicles continues under the system of the PETC IT providers

THE LIES ABOUT STRADCOM

- THE LIES THESE UNNAMED GROUPS HAVE BEEN SPREADING ABOUT STRADCOM CORPORATION ARE SIMPLY MEANT TO DEFLECT PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM THEIR OPERATIONS SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE MAKING HUGE PROFITS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MOTORING PUBLIC.

- THE ISSUES RAISED AGAINST STRADCOM ARE **REHASHED** ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY AND OPENLY ANSWERED IN VARIOUS INQUIRIES ON THE LTO IT PROJECT.

- STRADCOM CORPORATION HAS NOTHING TO HIDE AND HAS BEEN OPERATING UNDER A PUBLIC BIDDED CONTRACT AND IS COMPLETELY TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT UNDER THE BUILD OPERATE AND TRANSFER LAW (RA 7718).

- STRADCOM CORPORATION WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE THE PUBLIC IN THE SPIRIT OF TRUE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.

WHY ARE SO MANY GROUPS TRYING TO DESTROY THE CREDIBILITY OF STRADCOM CORPORATION AND THE LTO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT?

THE ONLY POSSIBLE REASON WHY MANY GROUPS ARE TRYING TO DESTROY THE CREDIBILITY OF STRADCOM AND THE LTO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT IS THAT THE TECHNOLOGY AND THE INNOVATIONS THAT STRADCOM PROVIDES THREATENS THE OPERATIONS OF EXISTING ILLEGAL SYNDICATES UNSCRUPULOUS BUSINESSES PREYING ON HELPLESS MOTORISTS.

YUSOPH

Fast action urged in Yusoph abduction

From page A1

Marawi City while on his way to pray at the Bato Ali Mosque at around 7 p.m. Sunday.

According to authorities, the kidnappers have demanded the mobilization of election results in the towns of Wahdang, Pitong Tanaka and Manta in Lanao del Sur to exchange for the safe release of the young Yusoph. It was unclear what prompted the demand.

Yusoph, in a brief interview with the media, said his son remained unharmed and the case was under investigation.

"My will hope that he should be released," he said.

Asked what he felt about the kidnapping, Yusoph said, "That's part of our job, we always must risk."

Gripes valid, remedy wrong

Pimentel acted on appeal to the abductors via the media.

"I appeal to my Lanao brothers not to harm the son of Commissioner Yusoph and release him asunset. Your gripes [are] valid but [arm] remedy is wrong," the senator said.

Pimentel was echoing the Comelec's pronouncement that the kidnappers were being senseless in their demands since they surmised that Yusoph alone could change the outcome of the polls in the three towns.

Election officials said that there had been petitions to void votes in some areas in Lanao del Sur, but it was unclear if the three towns mentioned by the kidnapping perpetrators were among them.

Only the results in Malabang are available on the Comelec website. It said Mayor Omnimahir Dalimdog and Vice Mayor Sierra Sewer Dalimdog ran unopposed in the balloting while Cong. Mitmug Mentang won in the town. All three officials come from Calabar Ranao (CMD).

Poll officials said the abduction would not affect the electoral protests following the May 10 automated balloting.

No ransom demand so far

Chief Supt. Bernardo Laing, the regional police chief, said no ransom demand had on his been made and that it was not known where the victim was being held.

A crisis committee has been formed to monitor the abduction situation.

Senior Supt. Benamo Adap, Lanao del Sur police chief, said that a group of ulama (religious leaders) had been designated to negotiate the safe and unconditional release of young Yusoph.

Adap said that the council of elders in Bharat headed by Sultan Gaya had been tapped by the committee to directly communicate with the kidnappers.

Commissioner Teodoro Ferrer said the poll body would remain judicious despite the threats, which he said were an attempt to hold the poll body hostage.

"Even Commissioner Yusoph said 'let's double the way it should be decided.' That is the policy of our government."

"Otherwise, all the issues will meet to kidnapping. They're not going to get anything from us," Ferrer said. "He's OK."

NBI dispatches agents

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) announced it was dispatching a team to help resolve the kidnapping.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring has tapped the Bureau's Special Task Force (STF), headed by Ariel Dalmacion, to lead the investigation into last Sunday's abduction of Yusoph's son.

Mantaring directed the STF agents, who are scheduled to join Marawi City today, to coordinate closely with the bureau's office in Iligan City which has begun its probe of the abduction.

"We have already identified the group and we are trying to get the identities of its members, including the masterminds," said Uson.

Laing, however, refused to give more details.

Rampart criminality

Abdullah Dalidig, chair of the congressmanic Islamic Movement for Electoral Reform and Good Governance, refused that even pin to the abduction on Sunday criminality had been rampant in the province.

"These are highly likely an aftermath of the polls," Dalidig said over the phone.

He added that the motives of the criminals who are usually also soldiers could be to get even with opponents, their supporters, or persons that political camps perceived to have betrayed their modalities.

In recent years, Dalidig said many Muslims reported being "persecuted" for alleged betrayal of their candidates' expression of support for particular candidates who eventually lost.

"Those families could have received large sums of money in the run-up to the elections in exchange for receiving votes," he related.

Prior to Yusoph's abduction, Dalidig and gunmen seized some P3 million in cash in a downtown Marawi robbery. Several suspects were linked to some politicians. PHILSTAR/with INQUIRER Lira Ulao, Jeannette I. Andrade, Marlon Ramos de Manila, and Charlie Senna, Inquirer Mindanao

GRADE I pupils on their way to the classroom during the opening of classes at Commonwealth Elementary School. INQUIRER FILE

RP trails Asean nations

From page A1

it of education in the country.

College education affected

"Our curriculum is actually based on a 12-year system but we are squeezing it into 10. You cannot identify that much in ten [years] as opposed to one over 12 years," he said.

He said the lack in school years also affected college education because the first two years in university were being used to "repeat high school subjects" through the general education curriculum.

"We don't have enough time for our majors and professional subjects because one third of our curriculum in college is general education. So, it affects the quality across the board," Salazar said.

According to him, squeezing basic education in a lower school calling may mean more in college, as proposed by the Aquino administration, because basic education is mostly public and is supposed to be free while most of higher education is not.

"Seventeen to 18 million of our 20 million are in the public schools. That's 90 percent so it will be in the public school," Salazar said.

"As a matter of fact, the government proposal of adding years in the system is actually more because, all of a sudden, what should have been the state responsibility now becomes a private responsibility," he added.

P13B yearly

But the shift to a 12-year basic education system would also cost the government around P13 billion annually.

"That's why we're really pushing for an increase in the budget to nearly 3 percent next. We'll take about 4-5 years up to that level so you don't need everything right away," Salazar said.

It will also not lead to a major disruption for the education system, said former Education Undersecretary Mike Luz, who has a plan on how to implement the proposed 12-year educational cycle.

This entails bringing back the bridge program, or the one-year remedial studies for incoming high schools students, and beefing up kindergarten. In five years' time, the bridge program would be transformed into first year high school while kindergarten is renamed Grade 1.

Grade 13

"At that point in time, the bridge becomes one, one becomes two, two becomes three ... and now you have five years of high school. That's regular after years before school. The fifth year we'll rename it Grade 12," Luz said.

"So, there will be no major impact. It's like they're just going one around," he added.

Having a 12-year educational cycle is also at the top of President-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III's 10-point educational agenda, which he outlined during his campaign.

"I will expand the basic education cycle, from a 10-year cycle in a globally competitive 12 years, for our public school children. At present, those who can afford basic education get into the best universities and the best jobs after graduation," Aquino said.

Increase budget

That's one position because we're one of the last countries that have a 10-year program. And then it is compounded by the fact that we have shifting. So what was right hours a day to school is now only four hours. What will be the effect?" he added.

However, Aquino admitted that educational reforms might be constrained by budgetary problems, especially with the large public deficit he is inheriting from the Arroyo administration.

"My basic concern is I don't spend what I don't have in my wallet. What we're targeting is to increase [the education budget] by 2 percent and that will amount to P138 billion already. But that depends on how small the deficit would be," he said.

SIDELY VISITOR
US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. shares a laugh with Vice President-elect Jejomar Binay during his courtesy call at the office of the outgoing Makati City mayor on Tuesday.

Aquino man in N. Vizcaya gunned down

From page A1

A total of 44 lawyers and judges, and 1,044 media workers have been killed in the country since President Macapagal-Arroyo took power in 2001.

Antonio Intelisano Liaison governor of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), Isabani was among the few human rights lawyers practicing in Nueva Vizcaya, among his clients were the poor and landless under threat of eviction and demolition of their houses.

In the run-up to the May 10 elections, Isabani served as the Liberal Party campaign manager in Nueva Vizcaya and was a staunch critic of the rival party, Nacionalista Vizcaya.

Critical commentaries

Isabani was known to have made critical commentaries over the Liberal Party's (Lp) radio program "Arya Vizcaya" on duty against alleged cases of graft in the provincial government.

He assisted local officials for the alleged misuse of more than P1 billion that the province had collected in real property taxes from the American Rita Calibre via Energy Corporation.

It was not the first attempt on Isabani's life. In July 2006, he suffered a bullet wound in his left arm after he was shot while he and his younger brother, Quezon Mayor Jaenilo Isabani, were playing mahjong inside a hut in Barangay Dumbleo in that town.

Hit in nape, shoulder

Police said two men on a motorcycle waited for Isabani at the resort's parking lot on Tuesday and held their post close to the SUV.

Isabani, who was hit in the nape and shoulder, was taken to Medical Mission Group Hospital in Bolinao but died at around 10 a.m.

"It appears that the assassins did not intend to leave any of the spare shells behind," said Superintendent Buenaventura, Bolinao police chief.

Police said they were trying to establish the possible motives in the attack and the identities of the assassins based on witnesses' accounts.

Shock, condemnation

News of Isabani's killing sparked expressions of shock, sympathy and condemnation among Bolinao residents, especially from Isabani's colleagues and friends.

"This is an outrage, a sign of the very bad state of peace and order in our province. What can be more telling than that of a cold-blooded killing, with a human rights lawyer as victim, that takes place in front of a court house, just a few steps away from the police station?" said church worker Samuel Sumanding.

Lawyer Rolando Tapaan condemned the senseless killing of an advocate of law. "There is no reason that will suffice for the taking of a life," he said.

He said the killing should be a "wake up call for all concerned" to improve peace and order in the country.

Lawyer Dominico Gumaw, group Gumaw, former IBP chapter president here, said the murder underscored the need for government to ensure the safety of lawyers and judges.

"We call [on] the Supreme Court or the local government to provide [judges and lawyers] police escort[s], especially during court hearings," she said.

Priority issue

The spate of killings has shown that human rights should be a priority issue of the incoming administration of President Benigno Aquino III, the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said yesterday.

Commission on Human Rights Chair Leila de Lima, who confirmed yesterday she would be part of Aquino's Cabinet (See story on Page A11), said it appointed that criminals were let loose from their cages with the killing of the election gun ban.

"The extrajudicial killings are a stain on the current administration's bid for criminal justice. Soon as the ban after the gun ban was lifted," De Lima told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

In a separate statement, Bayan said Aquino, who will take his oath as the country's 15th president on June 30, should "make it a decisive blow against impunity by going after outgoing President Macapagal-Arroyo, her cohorts, and other goons to arrest."

The group said that aside from corruption, human rights would be the biggest issue that will confront the incoming Aquino administration.

"We hope President Aquino would act swiftly after his inauguration because the killings are taking place every week," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

Indelible legacy

The militant group described impunity and extrajudicial killings as the "indelible legacy of Gloria Arroyo regime."

"The last few days of Arroyo's reign have seen a rise in the number of extrajudicial killings, the frequency of which is reminiscent of 2006 and 2007. Killings are happening every week around the country. Three activists, three journalists and a human rights lawyer have been killed from May 19 up to the present," Reyes said.

Bayan identified the activists as Edward Dangandan, 27, a union leader Lilled on June 2 in Laguna; Jun Lalos, a Bayan Muna regional secretariat staff member who was shot dead on May 19 in Naujan City; Darius del Mundo, and Benjamin Ilarde, 62, a human rights worker shot in Baguio on June 14.

Meeting with Aquino

De Lima said she and Aquino discussed the spate of killings at her meeting with him at his home on Times Street yesterday.

Asked how the Aquino administration would pursue the cases of extrajudicial killings committed during the Arroyo administration, De Lima said: "That will be discussed. There are no specifics yet."

With a report from Don Wycoco of the Inquirer Northern Luzon

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
TOLL REGULATORY BOARD
3/F Integrated Bar of the Phils. Bldg., Doña Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY PROJECT
(ALABANG TO CALAMBA)

APPLICABLE TOLL PRICES EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2010

In accordance with the Supplemental Toll Operation Agreement by and among the Republic of the Philippines, acting by and through the Toll Regulatory Board ("TRB"), Philippine National Construction Corporation, South Luzon Tollway Corporation ("SLTC") and Manila Toll Expressway Systems, Inc., and in view of the fulfillment by SLTC of the conditions imposed by the Board of Directors of TRB (the "Board"), the Board has approved the publication, in a newspaper of general circulation, of the following Applicable Toll Prices for Alabang to Calamba Section of the South Luzon Expressway Project which shall be in effect starting June 30, 2010 at 12:01 a.m.:

Class 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

TOLL PLAZAS	AUA	FIL	SLEX HTS	SNPEX	SWOEX	CAR	MAR	STR	ARI	CAB	SB	CAL
Alabang												
Filinvest	3.00											
Susana Heights	13.00	9.00										
San Pedro	17.50	14.00	4.00									
Southmoads	20.00	20.00	13.00	11.00								
Carmona	23.00	20.00	19.00	13.00	6.00							
Mamplasan	27.00	26.00	26.00	22.00	11.00	7.00						
Sta. Rosa	46.00	43.00	32.00	28.00	18.00	14.00	6.00					
ABE Greenfield	50.00	51.00	40.00	36.00	27.00	23.00	15.00	9.00				
Calauyan	61.00	57.00	46.00	42.00	32.00	28.00	21.00	13.00	6.00			
Silangan	65.00	61.00	50.00	47.00	37.00	33.00	25.00	19.00	11.00	6.00		
Calamba	77.00	74.00	64.00	60.00	49.00	45.00	38.00	32.00	23.00	17.00	13.00	

Class 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1-7ft. & above height)

TOLL PLAZAS	AUA	FIL	SLEX HTS	SNPEX	SWOEX	CAR	MAR	STR	ARI	CAB	SB	CAL
Alabang												
Filinvest	5.00											
Susana Heights	26.00	10.00										
San Pedro	34.00	28.00	9.00									
Southmoads	36.00	40.00	30.00	21.00								
Carmona	46.00	57.00	39.00	30.00	8.00							
Mamplasan	79.00	72.00	52.00	44.00	22.00	16.00						
Sta. Rosa	91.00	85.00	66.00	57.00	36.00	27.00	12.00					
ABE Greenfield	118.00	100.00	86.00	73.00	56.00	45.00	31.00	18.00				
Calauyan	127.00	116.00	95.00	87.00	66.00	57.00	45.00	30.00	13.00			
Silangan	139.00	130.00	106.00	95.00	73.00	65.00	51.00	38.00	20.00	8.00		
Calamba	163.00	148.00	135.00	130.00	95.00	90.00	76.00	62.00	53.00	34.00	26.00	

Class 3 (Heavy and Multi-Axled Trucks, Trailers)

TOLL PLAZAS	AUA	FIL	SLEX HTS	SNPEX	SWOEX	CAR	MAR	STR	ARI	CAB	SB	CAL
Alabang												
Filinvest	10.00											
Susana Heights	35.00	28.00										
San Pedro	33.00	41.00	13.00									
Southmoads	64.00	79.00	60.00	33.00								
Carmona	96.00	86.00	58.00	44.00	13.00							
Mamplasan	118.00	108.00	79.00	66.00	36.00	22.00						
Sta. Rosa	137.00	127.00	98.00	86.00	53.00	41.00	19.00					
ABE Greenfield	166.00	150.00	126.00	113.00	83.00	68.00	46.00	27.00				
Calauyan	182.00	172.00	142.00	130.00	98.00	85.00	68.00	45.00	17.00			
Silangan	196.00	186.00	153.00	143.00	110.00	97.00	76.00	57.00	29.00	12.00		
Calamba	232.00	222.00	193.00	186.00	148.00	136.00	114.00	93.00	68.00	50.00	38.00	

The above Applicable Toll Prices does not include any EVAT.

Any interested expressway user shall have the right to file, within a period of ninety (90) days from the date of publication of this notice, a petition for review with the TRB at the 2nd Floor, Integrated Bar of the Philippines Building, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

By authority of the Board:

(Sgd.) **MANUEL G. IMPERIAL**
Executive Director

GMA gets high marks from her old UP professor

From page A1

With only eight days to go before Mr. Arroyo steps down, Arnado finally got the right opportunity with the launching of a 984-page book he rewrote that "objectively" shows her administration's success.

Titled "Beat the Odds: Month in Some for the Edifice," the book concludes with deputy presidential spokesperson Gary Olivar as it deadline to disguise on how the outgoing President supposedly accomplished her "10-point agenda."

Glowing reviews

The authors gave glowing reviews of their own books, describing them as an "objective" exposition of the Arroyo administration's achievements.

But how can a book written by the Arroyo's own people be truly objective?

"I think any book is never purely objective ... but first of all, you have to read it and I really do encourage you to read it," said Gertrude Limcaoco, former Philippine Information Agency chief who helped publish the books.

An initial 5,000 copies of "Beat the Odds" are available, a third of which will be the bookstores before the end of the week, he said.

The book was launched yesterday in Malacañang with no less than Ms Arroyo as the guest of honor. The book examines how she steered the country through several crises—from terrorism to coup plots.

Setting record straight

Arnado said he accepted the offer to write a book on the President's accomplishments if only to set the record straight.

"I would read those negative newspaper articles. I would invite to this breakfast ... I just knew in my head of hearts that these could not be true," he said in his speech in the book launch, recalling the days when Ms Arroyo was taking a 09.2% erosion under him.

"The opportunity to put these things right and to show that that is the fact. I thought that this book offered that opportunity," he added.

Poor remain poor

Ms. Arroyo will say down one week after overseeing nine years of economic growth, but nine economists say the poor have missed out and her successor will inherit major economic problems.

A third of the nation's 92 million people remain in deep poverty, by a figure that has barely changed since the term office in 2001, while corruption has flourished and the rich have mainly enjoyed the benefits of the boom, they say.

"The things that really matter to our daily lives like food security, poverty, health and education have really deteriorated over the last six to 10 years," said economist Arsenio Balisacan.

Ms Arroyo will leave office on June 30 with the unenviable reputation of being one of the country's most unpopular leaders, but she has repeatedly insisted that her economic record is a source of pride.

Hits, misses

Gemma Pinderayan, a professor at the UP School of Economics, gave Ms Arroyo a mixed grade, saying she had "some hits, some misses."

He credited Ms Arroyo with controlling the runaway budget deficit, largely through the passage of key fiscal reforms in 2005 despite widespread opposition.

But he said much of the growth under Ms Arroyo came from a few sectors—the remittances from millions of Filipinos overseas spending, a boom in consumer spending, and earnings from call centers and other outsourced businesses.

Out of reach

"Those sectors are all out of reach of the millions of the poor, who have largely missed out on any of the benefits of economic growth, according to Pinderayan and Balisacan.

"Economic growth [under Arroyo] made investors less equal," said Balisacan, head of the Asia Pacific Policy Center.

The World Bank's country director for the Philippines, Ben Hollman, also said recently that economic growth under Ms Arroyo had not made a serious dent in tackling poverty.

Contrary to what critics are saying, Ms Arroyo deserves a grade of 1.5 for her achievements in infrastructure and social development, Arnado earlier said.

Serious stuff

Arnado, however, yesterday blasted media for their portrayal of Ms Arroyo, saying his book—in contrast to newspaper accounts and broadcast reports—was "serious" stuff that should belong in the shelves of students of political science, public administration and economics.

"This is not to denigrate our colleagues in the journalistic profession—we are all—but I have to tell it as I see it," he said. "If you read newspapers, especially one whose name I even refuse to mention, that's how I look at it."

Foreword

In the foreword for "Beat the Odds," Ms Arroyo wrote: "I count myself fortunate in having been able to stand up to all those moments of weakness."

"It has always been a core conviction of mine that a leader must do what is right even if it might ultimately be unpopular to my actions, the right policies demand such lies—most of all from those in leadership—in order to secure a better future for the country."

Ms Arroyo added: "Democratic leadership is never an easy task. Whenever a leader yields to what is momentarily popular but ultimately destructive to the country he or she does a disservice to the nation. The hallmark of good leadership is to stand firm when the pure are strongest."

A second book, reviewed by Senator Miriam and Ricardo Saludo, was also launched yesterday in the Palace. It is described as an "analytical close up of policymaking, decision making and action taken by a Philippine president under the most challenging circumstances."

With a report from AFP

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ON APRIL 28, 2005, DR ANN MAGUEL, BULACAN, Jonas Burgos conducted organic farming, tutoring for members of the Alyansa ng Magsasaka ng Bulacan, a chapter of the militant peasant organization Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

He was last seen that afternoon in the Hyatt Regency restaurant at the Ever Gotesco Mall in Quezon City, being forcibly dragged away by a group of men and a woman.

A mall security guard said Burgos was taken away in a Toyota Revo with Plate No. TAB 194.

The license plate was traced to Burgos' mother, Edita Burgos, to a vehicle impounded at the headquarters of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion in Norzagaray, Bulacan. The battalion, believed to have abducted Burgos, is largely run by a Norzagaray-based Angat-based unit named at the Army camp since June 2006.

A month after the abduction, Lieutenant Colonels Rose Clement, Melquiades Feliciano and Melquiades Cruz, Capt. Cedric Bugtai and Pfc. Jona Villena appeared before police investigators and denied involvement in the kidnapping.

Clement said the license plate might have been stolen from the disturbed when the entire battalion left the camp for field assignments from November to December 2006.

Edita Burgos' lawyer wrote Brig. Gen. Ismael Fernan Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon requesting a copy of the report of the Provost Marshal and the inspector General on the involvement of the 56th IB in Burgos' disappearance.

Expose accused of cover-up

The Burgos camp received a letter on June 21, 2005, from the Judge Advocate General explaining that the report could not be released because it was classified, and that the case was still undergoing investigation.

A week later at a press conference, the mother accused the Army of obstructing her son, and capable of covering up the crime.

The military denied this, and said it was actually trying to be "transparent" in the investigation.

On July 18, 2005, the Supreme Court granted Edita Burgos' petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

But the military continued to insist that Burgos was not in its custody.

The Provost Marshal's report was finally submitted to the court on Aug. 1, 2005. Assistant Solicitor General Angelita Tang said the report dealt only with the issue of the license plate, and was irrelevant to the habeas corpus case that the Court of Appeals was hearing.

In December 2007, Edita Burgos sought and received a writ of amparo from the appellate court. The petition was later consolidated with her earlier plea for habeas corpus.

In February 2008, she submitted to the court an 11-page confidential report purportedly from the Army. Dated March 12, 2007, the report included charges and identified a list of alleged unlisted members of the communist New People's Army.

'Neutralized'

Beside Burgos' name was the word "neutralized."

Clement, in court, Edita Burgos refused to disclose the identity of her source, but said the source was in the military.

The Court of Appeals noted that the evidence was consigned, unauthenticated and unidentified. The document was also dated a month before Burgos' actual abduction, leading the court's consensus that the list could have been fabricated.

Other data presented to the court as evidence were ruled to be inadmissible or unsubstantiated.

On July 01, 2008, the appellate court threw out Edita Burgos' petition for habeas corpus, amparo and writ of habeas data, saying that the military was behind the abduction of her son.

But it partly granted her plea for a writ of amparo, and directed the military and police to provide her the documents that she sought in her own investigation.

In August 2008, Edita Burgos asked the Supreme Court to reverse the appellate court's habeas corpus ruling.

Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

SC orders full CHR probe of Jonas kidnap

From page A1

directed to compel state agents to cooperate with efforts to look for victims of forced disappearances.

The CHR's tasks, according to the high court's 14-page resolution, include tracking down the identities and whereabouts of those of the five abductors who were identified in police sketches, as well as the identities and locations of the military personnel who were identified as likely abductors by a senior state prosecutor.

The high court also ordered the CHR to check links the police claim that Burgos, then 57, was abducted by members of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

It also ordered the CHR to "endeavor[to] all measures in the investigation of the Burgos abduction that may be necessary to live up to the extraordinary measures we require in addressing an enforced disappearance under the rule of the writ of amparo."

Release records

In the unanimous resolution written by Associate Justice Arturo Brion, the high court also directed the incumbent chiefs of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to make available to the CHR all pertinent documents and records.

These include the records of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) investigation report which it claimed to have forwarded to the Department of Justice but withheld from the CHR.

The CHR was also ordered to provide investigative assistance to the CHR "as it may require" under the authority granted by the high court.

Burgos, an agriculturist by profession, was abducted by four armed gunmen at around 1 p.m. on April 28, 2007, at the ground floor of the Ever Gotesco Mall in Quezon City. (See What Went Before on this page.)

Witnesses said he was thrown into the back seat of a maroon Toyota Revo with Plate No. TAB 194.

His mother Edita Burgos traced the license plate to an Isuzu ELF van (1199 model) that was impounded at the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion headquarters in Bulacan, which led her to believe that military personnel were behind Burgos' abduction. (See What Went Before on this page.)

In its resolution, the Supreme Court said the AFP and PNP had failed to properly pursue the investigation of Burgos' abduction in the last three years.

It gave the task to the CHR based on the petition filed by Edita Burgos, who had asked the high court to reverse an unfavorable ruling by the Court of Appeals.

CA denies petition

The appellate court denied on July 17, 2008, Edita Burgos' petition against President Macapagal-Arroyo and military and police officials for a writ of habeas corpus, which requires the state to bodily produce persons believed abducted by the police and military.

It also partially denied her petition for the issuance of a writ of amparo, which is similar to habeas corpus except that it is available to relatives of victims of extralegal killings or enforced disappearances.

The appellate court granted Arroyo's motion to drop her name from the petition, saying that she could not be sued while in office.

The court also denied the PNP its contention that it could not be compelled to release its records because of the ongoing investigation.

It said that the PNP's claim that the case was still under investigation was "unacceptable" because the PNP-CIDG, as the lead investigating agency in the present case, did not appear to have lifted a finger to pursue these aspects of the case, "the Supreme Court said.

It said that the PNP-CIDG's "mere claim" verifying the claims of one Emerito Lipio and one Rhoben Mutuad that Burgos was abducted by NPA rebels.

But the high court agreed with the Court of Appeals in dropping Ms Arroyo from the list of respondents.

The other respondents are then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon; then Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino; Maj. Gen. Jaime Delfin, commander of the army's 7th Infantry Division that has jurisdiction over the 56th IB; Lt. Col. Noel Clement and Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano, former 56th IB commanders; and then-PNP Director General Oscar Calderon.

The high court also said that due to the reassignment of the respondents, the incumbent heads of the military units in question would be served all future court notices and resolutions.

MANILA DAY
Weekend Celebration!
Culminating on June 26
10 of the hottest spots in the metro
20 of the hottest bands in the country
featuring: Parokya ni Edgar, Sandwich, Rico Blanco, Kamikazee, Callalily, Chicosci, Spongecola
30 hours of partying
Be there!
06.26.10
5PM Sunset to 4AM Sunrise
• Greenfield District, Central Park (formerly EDSA Central)
• Ever Commonwealth, Quezon City • Home Depot, Ortigas
• Marikina Riverpark • Remedios Circle, Malate

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

19 years after Pinatubo's 'big bang,' a lot of changes for these folks

By Tonette Orejas
Pinoy, Pampanga

WITH SIX GOATS IN TOW, Miranda King stands on the edge of a cliff, surveying the grass and shrubs below before the rays seen over Inararo, the closest village to Mount Pinatubo on the side of Porac, Pampanga.

King, 80, makes a slow descent, seeming to find his groin with pliers sent by the morning dew. To his far right, layers of charcoal-colored rocks scorn the slopes in this part of the volcano that erupted in June 1991 and changed General Luna's landscape.

The sand, ash and pumice stones that the eruptions spewed out are gone, washed down by rains. Yet once in his Aeta tribe wo- mores here, though, because the rocks drop off from the weight of climbers.

Far down, to King's left, the river in San Marcelino, Zambales, looks every bit like a winding highway leading straight to the South China Sea. Houses dot values to ease a green sweep.

In Inararo, two waterfalls gurgle off water, feeding streams in the village. But irrigation is not enough because farms covered by volcanic debris need lots of water.

And so members of King's clan planted bananas and would drink a pharmicon to eat them. They were so desperate to earn that they cultivated the plant even on steep slopes.

Villa Maria resettlement, a half-day walk from Inararo, offers a bird's eye view of the Subic-Clark Basin. Expressways that cut through the highlands of Hermosa and Bataan and Pampanga's Bataan and Hondabbaras and Porac towns in Pampanga.

King's grandson, Joseph, left for Saudi Arabia two years ago to work as a welder.

"Dahil sa ng mardapa (A lot has changed)," King said of his clan's life and their environs.

Still a dream

Whatever is left of the disaster is in his mind and in that, his dream of having their ancestral domain titled in the tribe reservation. His son, Pontan, now the barangay chair of Inararo, is working that out.

In the lowlands, the remnants of the eruptions and lahar rampages are confined in eight rivers with headwaters on the Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales sides of the volcano.

Half-buried houses and churches are mere witnesses to the violent side of nature.

Reinaldo Mercado has seen the disaster and how General Luna recovered from it. He has served as regional director of the National Economic and Development Authority since 1998.

As he sees things now, the three provinces have been able to rebuild along the line set by Guillermo Carague, who headed the task force that shortly evolved in the Mount Pinatubo Commission.

"Take the disaster as an opportunity to do something better," Carague had said.

Mercado believes the framework prevailed.

The Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo Road has been turned into a reliable link of Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales. Low-land resettlements are now seen sites. The Subic Naval Base in Zambales and the Clark Air Base in Pampanga are now free ports, with more than 900 businesses there hiring over 120,000 workers.

What happened was not a single, one-time disaster. Two disasters unfolded—the eruptions and the closure of the American bases...and both had lingering economic effects.

But Mercado thinks that the three provinces and their people gained the grade, with the region regaining its 10 percent contribution to the national economy. And that's because the ratio disaster, he notes, attracted attention to General Luna and aid for its rehabilitation.

A SERENE lake is what is left of Mount Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions (top photo), but many Aetas who dwell around it are still trapped in poverty. (Gerville Largo)

What happened was not a single, one-time disaster

Rebuilding work

So much has been spent by the government on rebuilding work that also became fodder for corruption.

On top of the P31.832 billion released for Pinatubo-related projects, such as the PVR Megadike in Pampanga, the government took out loans, mostly from Japan, for the Pinatubo Hazard Urgent Mitigation Project (Phumpi).

People here shown a great way of coping, using resources to start anew. Farmers, in Sta. Juliana in Capas, Tarlac, lowland farmers and Aeta earn from tour guiding activities in the volcano. Women in Mabalacat, Pampanga, gather pumice for stone-washing jeans. Archeans make gift items out of sand.

Said proved to be a mixed gold. The administration of outgoing Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio collected P412.516 million in quarry and hauling fees in 26 months.

The twin disaster tested the grit of the people that some are memorializing it. For the next generations, the late Bernardo Pampanga Heritage Foundation and the City of San Fernando government published the book "Pinatubo, Triumph of the Kapampangan Spirit."

The smuggling brigades are gone; the days of living on relief goods are over.

Besides, wealth has become the catchment of lahar in Pampanga, now has a P5-billion rehabilitation program, P500 million of which was released last year.

But the Center for Emergency Aid and Rehabilitation said the impact of natural and ecological disasters was hard many times over on poor people.

Responses to disaster should be community-based and a development program that provides productive lands and jobs, and protects the environment will make poor people less vulnerable to disasters, the center said in a paper published by the Philippine Sociological Society.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

MOUNT PINATUBO, A VOLCANO ON the western arc of Central Luzon, let out a huge smoke-ash-like ash cloud on June 12, 1991. Its strongest eruption was recorded on June 15, prompting the United States Air Force based in Pampanga to evacuate to Subic Naval Base in nearby Zambales.

The eruptions destroyed 364 villages, displaced 329,143 families or about two million persons. About 500 people died mostly from roofs collapse while in evacuation centers. The death toll rose after even lahar season.

The government did not issue a final tally but more deaths were documented among Aeta people in the aftermath of the eruptions.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development maintained 139 evacuation centers. Relief operations and construction of bullpen homes cost P2.3 billion from 1991 to 1992.

Damages to public infrastructures amounted to P5.8 billion in 1991. Lahar flows in 1992 damaged 14 billion cubic meters of roads and bridges.

Ashfall buried 10,000 hectares of forest land and covered 56,200 ha of farms, ruining P1.4 billion worth of crops, livestock and fisheries.

Source: National Economic and Development Authority Central Luzon

Restoring pride in Pampanga heritage

AFTER MOUNT PINATUBO'S eruptions in June 1991 altered the landscape of Pampanga and changed the lives of its people, a cultural and historical renaissance has unfolded and has helped restore pride to their heritage.

In this posthumous journey, there are many moving forces and movers (career Bolanos "Bobby" Tantingco is one of their members.

Tantingco is the executive director of the Center for Kapampangan Studies, who has been regarded as a vanguard of Kapampangan culture and history. He discourages people through from referring to him with that title.

"There's no single person that should be credited for this. I was just there at the right place at the right time. The province was ripe for renaissance. It was a confluence of events, people and resources that you put together," he said.

He is still up to take credit for shaping the changes: "I was able to seize the opportunities as they presented themselves. I was able to synchronize all the people."

Under his tutelage and through the building of the Holy Angel University, the center has published over a dozen books, mostly translations, histories, biographies and anthologies, even a songbook.

Nothing in Tantingco's family prepared him to be a cultural advocate and a historian. His grandfather was a businessman and philanthropist in Mabalacat; his father was a medical doctor.

At 15, Tantingco entered the Mother of Good Counsel Seminary in the City of San Fernando but left after the first year of college at the Holy Cattle Seminary in Malolos City.

He did not veer away from the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary because he went next to the CICM-run Saint Louis University in Baguio City to take his Bachelor of Arts in English and graduate studies, using his time to read the classics, write and perform in the local theater.

Tantingco said it was Mike Pamplinan (**Atin Ito/Ito ay Atin/Ito**) who inspired him to walk on grounds he never trodded before. "He has an infectious passion for Kapampangan culture. I got infected. I got the virus," he laughed.

Soon, Tantingco led tours of teachers and students to observe and document folk festivals, churches, music, food, crafts and people.

Ronnie Orejas

PROF. ROBBY Tantingco heads the promotion of Kapampangan culture and history.

Mr. President, please save the press, form super body vs media killings

Mr. President, please save the press, form super body vs media killings

We, the journalists from all sectors, including the National Press Club, petition President Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino III to save the press by forming a super body to fight the evil media killings and create killers.

In the penultimate week preceding your inauguration (Your Excellency as the 15th President of the Republic of the Philippines, three journalists were killed.

On June 14, Dominic Camangian of Bombo Radyo was killed in Bislig, Davao Oriental. The next day, Juanito Pacatte of Aksyon Radyo Legazpi was murdered in Albay. And on June 16, the 58-day, a television station host in Dumaguete, was also killed by motorcycle-riding men in Davao del Sur.

After you lifted your certificate of candidacy, this Wednesday, June 9, 2010 by the Commission on Elections, another journalist was gunned down on November 23, 2009 by the most barbaric act ever done against the press. Thirty-two journalists were killed in the massacre of 57+ innocent Maguindanaoans.

The wholesale killing sparked a massive outflow of outrage from all over the globe, demanding the capture and arrest of the suspected brains and doers of the massacre. This forced the outgoing government to oust two warlord clansmen and their henchmen they coddled for ten years, although the trial looks quirky and dilly.

Since then, the media killings by trigger-happy lackeys of warlords, those in the military, state and local governments, have increased to one media killing every two weeks, state and international watchdogs have documented.

Worse, the killings are in epidemic and continuing swarm and performance of duties. Those who hate the press do not go through written reports from the media to independently confirm the criticisms. No! They go to the scene of every government, military or private misdeeds, seeking matches to any existing crimes.

Thus, the urgency of now is to battle media killings and impunities to the end.

Otherwise, for such to triumph in the good reasons do not emerge.

We, Excellency, are therefore petition for the creation of a SUPERBODY against media killings and impunities, a SUPERBODY equipped with ruling number of prosecutors and investigators to defend the rights of the media and the killers of 100 reporters since March 30, a SUPERBODY peopled by honorable men and women of impeccable integrity to ensure indictment, prosecution, and secure judges from influences, a SUPERBODY vested with the power to say the military or any law enforcement related members of the government.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Gov: 250% SLEx toll hike to kill Bicol trade

LEGAZPI CITY—ALBAY GOV. JOEY SALCEDA, yesterday filed a petition in court to stop the collection of higher toll at the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx), which he said would virtually kill businesses in Bicol that rely on the expressway.

Salceda said the 250 percent increase in toll, which would deliver more than P9 billion from almost P2 billion a year in the private firm South Luzon Tollway Corp. (SLTC), was too great.

In the first place, the governor's petition said, the collection of toll was illegal because the franchise that SLTC runs using has lapsed in the Phil. National Construction Corp. (PNCC) has not been renewed.

He said SLTC and PNCC entered into an agreement for SLTC to use PNCC franchise to operate SLEx in 2006. The PNCC franchise, however, expired in May 2007 and wasn't renewed.

Without a franchise, collecting toll for use of SLEx was illegal, said the governor.

On Friday, Salceda asked the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) to review the planned toll increase.

Salceda, also Bicol's Regional Development Council (RDC) chair, said the TRB should have subjected the toll hike to a public hearing because of its impact on Bicol, one of the country's poorest regions.

"The probable increase in transaction or a curtailment of trade and easy freedom to travel," he said.

"Our voices were not even heard," said Salceda. "At least fourth quarters are asked their last desires or statements."

He said toll hikes cannot be justified by physical improvements on SLEx, which he described as a far cry from those in the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx).

Salceda, citing government traffic data, at least 150,000 vehicles pass through SLEx a day.

SLTC said it traveled to its offices to discuss the cost of improvements it made on the expressway.

Alma Sharon, SLTC spokesperson, said the collection of the new rates was deferred until July 7, or a week after its initial schedule on June 30.

The move, said Sharon, was made as a gesture of courtesy to the incoming administration of President-elect Benigno Aquino III.

According to Salceda, prohibitive rates of using SLEx would virtually kill trade in Bicol.

Trade with Manila, he said, is the lifeblood of Bicol and SLEx is its main artery.

"Why do Bicolanos have to singularly pay for the ineffectiveness of public expenditures by the DPWH?" Salceda said.

Senators also took on the controversy generated by the planned toll hike on SLEx.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said he would initiate an investigation of what he said was an "inordinate" increase in toll on SLEx when Congress opens next month.

"We should find out what justifies such an inordinate increase," Enrile said in a statement yesterday.

He urged commuters, commercial businesses hurt by the planned toll hike to file a class suit.

The new toll rates from the repaired Alabang to Calamba stretch will cost P77 from the current P22 for light vehicles; P155 from P44 for buses and P232 from P65 for heavy trucks and trailers. The new rates will be collected starting July 7.

Mar S. Arguelles, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Christine G. Avendaño and Paolo Montecillo in Manila

Sightseers told: If Taal is dangerous, so is Mayon

LEGAZPI CITY—IF YOUR DESTINATION in a trip to cursed Taal Volcano was canceled, the best alternative would be to see Mayon, correct?

Not so fast, scientists on the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The Phivolcs officer here said tourists who canceled trips to Taal in Batangas and proceeded to Albay could be playing with fire.

Mayon, the volcanology office said, was still dangerous. Intensive activity caused an 8-km no-trespassing radius and causing small explosions.

Still restive

Eduardo Laguerta, resident volcanologist, said in text messages on Sunday that the number of volcanic quakes in Mayon has increased slightly. The glow in its crater has turned brighter, he said.

"Restless lah," said Laguerta. He said Phivolcs has maintained alert level 1 because random in the volcano are still "observed."

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council chair, has alerted the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office.

He also asked the Provincial Tourism Affairs Office to closely monitor the entry of tourists whose trips to Taal were canceled by a government order to ban all human activity near and in the volcano closest to Metro Manila.

Hardheaded guides

The governor said he also gave an order to monitor local tourist guides who keep ignoring warnings against entering a 6-kilometer radius permanent danger zone around Mayon.

Laguerta said tourists should refrain from climbing the slopes of Mayon.

Alex Baluyog, Phivolcs Legazpi Hill observatory science manager, analyst, said lockdowns were likely to encounter hardheaded guides of the volcano's slopes.

The Phivolcs warning came at least five months after Mayon's alert level was lowered to 1 in January. In December, at least 36,000 families were moved out of communities near Mayon because of the volcano's increasing restlessness.

Brighter glow

Salceda said the brighter crater glow could have answered more inaction to get near Mayon.

Authorities said the safest and nearest viewing site for Mayon's glowing crater is at the Mayon Resthouse in Barangay Buyog, Tabaco City.

Several families have been moved out of their homes in the Taal Island after Phivolcs raised alert level three to 2.

Authorities were planning to temporarily lift a ban on entering Taal, but a reporter got stranded there, prompting officials to keep the ban. Rey Ali Arcos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

DEATH ON A BEACH
A sperm whale lies dead on the beach in a coastline village in Governor Generoso town in Davao Oriental. Authorities said the animal, one of the largest mammals in the world that could grow to up to 100 feet long, could have drifted to the town. MARLOMAR GUEVARRA/CONTRIBUTOR

Protests stand in the way of plans to hike power rates

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A TOP OFFICIAL of Negros Occidental on Monday said the provincial government would oppose new power rate increases being sought by the National Power Corp.

Governor Alfredo Marañon Jr. on Monday said the planned rate increase was a big insult to consumers in the province who are suffering from poor electric services and were most likely to condemn the new rates.

He said frequent brownouts in the province have destroyed household appliances and business equipment.

"If better power services were being provided to us, the prospect of higher power rates would have been more acceptable," he said.

In a separate interview on Monday, Bacolod Representative (no-elect Anthony Golez said the Negatrons petitions have to be studied carefully because these would be unpopular to Negros Occidentals and to many areas in the Visayas, which have been suffering from power shortages.

Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Cenelco) manager Salpicio Laguelo earlier said the cooperative would oppose the Napocor petitions for rate increases.

Napocor is seeking an increase of 62.51 centavos per kilowatthour (kWh) in Luzon, 9.73 centavos per kWh in the Visayas and 11.22 centavos per kWh in Mindanao under the 16th installment of the Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism (Gram).

It also wanted to increase rates in Luzon by another 63.61 centavos per kWh, 7.04 centavos per kWh in the Visayas and 6.99 centavos per kWh in Mindanao under the 15th installment of the Incremental Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (Icera).

According to Laguelo, Cenelco is one franchise that affected utilities, such as Napocor, to recover some foreign exchange losses and purchased power, while the latter allows utilities to recover foreign exchange-related costs.

12 dead in Cavite, Cebu road accidents

AT LEAST TWELVE PEOPLE were dead in two separate accidents in Cavite and Toledo City in Cebu.

In Cavite, seven people died after the sport utility vehicle they were riding slammed into an electric post yesterday.

One of the fatalities, Edmund Laurente, 20, died at a hospital after the crash. Six of the other dead have not been identified.

Five were injured in the crash.

Police said the fatalities and injured were in a Toyota Prado that was moving at about 80 kilometers per hour on Governor's Drive in Bantandhan City in Cavite.

"They were coming very fast," said Supt. Eleanor Bacilla, Dasmariñas police chief.

Bacilla said police were trying to confirm reports that the driver of the Prado was drunk when the SUV slammed into an electric post at 4 a.m.

Senior Supt. Bacilla Rodriguez, Cavite police chief, said that Prado's passengers were mostly college students who were returning to Metro Manila from Tagaytay City.

In Toledo City, four people were killed when a wayward trailer truck ran into a group of people gathered outside a church to celebrate a feast in Barangay Poog after it lost its brakes.

PO3 Julius Sanchez, investigator of the Toledo City Police Station, identified the fatalities as Rhea Ailes, 24, of Naga City, Cebu; Ariel Bubla, 38, of Compostela town; Orlando Bontiguyan, 32, of Cebu City; and Juliet Mabate, 55, of Pinamungahan, Cebu. All four were killed on the spot.

At least eight people were injured.

Sanchez said the trailer truck was carrying two 20-foot container vans filled with plastic bags. He said it was negotiating a downhill road when its brakes malfunctioned, causing it to head straight to the church.

The two container vans were detached from the truck and fell on the group of people gathered outside the church.

Sanchez said police detained 21-year-old Joel Pepito, truck driver and employee of CST Trucking.

Police would file charges against the driver and CST Trucking owner Edwin Lanaro.

The accident was the second in less than a week in Cebu after a bus carrying Iranian students plunged into a 50-foot ravine in Balamban town, killing 20 of the Iranians and the bus driver. Marlowe B. Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon, and Rhommel Aspuriaga, Inquirer Visayas

Firm lets school explore Internet for teaching

By Jhonner Magallanes
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—HANDS ARE BUSY nowadays since not be important to students who could afford to go to Internet cafés. But for most students of public high schools, Internet connection is a luxury.

But answers for students of the Consolacion National High School (CNHS), which has 2,807 students and 42 services.

One of the country's top telecommunications firms, Globe Telecom, brought to Internet in Schools program to the high school on April 17, 2002.

18 months free

It gave the school, located in a town 13 kilometers north of Cebu City, 18 months free Internet connection.

The program was an eye-opener for teachers and students. While continuing the service would require payment after 18 months, the teachers saw the value of Internet.

"It lightens the load of teachers," said school principal Adelina Sambilano.

Both Adelina Lopez, who teaches English, said the Internet reduces teachers' dependence on chalks and books.

"We are helping our students land a better job in the future," said Lopez, one of the teachers who participated in another of Globe's programs, Global Filipino Teachers (GFT).

Teachers' training

The GFT program trained teachers on the use of the Internet for classrooms, said Pia Angeli Bernal, Globe senior specialist for corporate affairs.

Bernal said Globe included CNHS in the GFT program after the school retained Internet connection started through Bayantel.

Of 97 teachers who went through GFT, 40 were from Cebu, 25 were from Bohol and 32 from Negros Oriental.

Lopez was GFT batch 2009 valedictorian. "Teachers also adapt to changes," Lopez said.

While CNHS lacks classrooms, it reduced the number of dropouts by two percent. One would be enrolled in Internet connection, Sambilano said.

Level playing field

Stefano Gangale, outgoing Commission envoy, hailed the ISP program, saying he had planned to apply it also to some other high schools in the town.

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Level playing field

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ADELINA SAMBILANO, principal of the Consolacion National High School, after discussing the benefits of Internet to be sought initially to her school by Globe Telecom

FEDERER: Cross call

First-round scare greets Federer at Wimbledon

LONDON—IT WAS ROGER FEDERER, but not as we know him, at Wimbledon on Monday as the Swiss escaped from the brink of defeat after being outraged by a Colombian firebrand playing the match of his life on Center Court.

Alejandro Falla was unperturbed to be serving double, an obligatory punch bag, as the top seed raised his artistry at the start of a challenge for a record-equaling seventh men's singles title later but he almost secured one of the greatest shocks ever seen on the rectangle of green turf.

On a first day of action that spanned 11 hours, French Open champion Francesca Schiavone became the victim of the first shock, the ballast losing to Alex Dushevina.

Long after dark, with the Center Court roof closed and the lights beaming, men's third seed Novak Djokovic then survived a similar fate, mulling off the last six games to beat trinky Belgian Olivier Rochus, 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Nearly 15,000 rabid fanatics gathered to see Federer stride out at lunchtime on Center Court's verdant lawn, expecting an exhibition of shot-making from the 16-time grand slam champion.

Instead they watched in awe and growing disbelief as Falla, ranked 60th in the world, produced a fierce onslaught to blast into a two-set lead and serve for glory in the fourth.

The Swiss prevailed, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4, but not before agonizing through long periods of a gripping match.

"My whole game was sort of in disarray," said Federer, whose 100 previous successes record against Falla included a 40 debutant win in 2004 when he dropped just three games.

With defending women's champion Serena Williams warming on Tuesday, team Venus, seeded two, blew the family flag with a 6-3, 6-2 defeat of Paraguay's Rossana De Los Rios.

Schiavone's challenge was short-lived as she succumbed, 6-7, 7-5, 6-1, to Dushevina.

"Francesca is the French Open champion but I have been junior champion here and I know how to play on grass," the Moldovan-based Russian told reporters. Reuters

8 Filipinos clinch Youth Games slots

By Jove Manzano

EIGHT YOUNG FILIPINO ATHLETES HAVE clinched berths in the maiden Youth Olympic Games this August in Singapore.

Swimming's Jessie Khing Lacuna and Antoni Ablaza, weightlifting's Patricia Gene, taekwondo's Aeliph Ann Tingcad and 3-on-3 basketball's Michael Tolentin, Bobby Ray Parks Jr., Jerome Teng and Michael Jose comprise the modest Philippine team in the Olympiad for athletes 14 years and younger.

"They are among the best young athletes in the world," said Mark Joseph, the POC chef de mission and Philippine Olympic Committee deputy secretary general.

The POC initially planned to send only four athletes to the Aug. 13 global games but decided to add four more after the athletes were declared by their respective international federations to be in Singapore following a series of qualifying tournaments.

"It was damn damn harder to qualify [in the YOG]," said Joseph. "And they have very strict rules for officials wanting to be games-bound."

The 3-on-3 basketball team was invited to compete against 29 other teams in the games by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

"We don't really know how good the other teams are, but [the competitions] will be very tough because it's an Olympic event," said Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Sonny Barrios.

Now the first thing we've been trained to do already a great success. It will be a great boost to our youth development."

Apart from the eight athletes, Joseph said four coaches (one per event) plus himself will complete the country's 13-man delegation.

The POC lamented the fact that young athletes from boxing, shooting, archery, athletics, and tennis failed to make the games.

CRISTIANO Ronaldo (center) beats Portugal's goalkeeper with an awkward shot that bounced off his back. AFP

Portugal shreds North Korea XI

Favored Spain nails first victory

JOHANNESBURG—PORTUGUESE SUPERSTAR Cristiano Ronaldo put up two goals at the World Cup—and Portugal went five better.

After a dismal first set and heavily doubted in their opener, the Portuguese and Spaniards were dominant Monday. Portugal routed North Korea 7-0, handing the Asian team out of the tournament, and Spain got back on track with a 2-0 win over Honduras.

The 2006 World Cup semifinalists finally got a goal from Cristiano Ronaldo in the romp in Cape Town. It was the Real Madrid winger's first goal for his country in two years of competitive games.

"It was important the first to score," coach Carlos Queiroz said.

Portugal was held to a 0-0 draw by Ivory Coast in its opening Group D match, but the goals poured forth on Monday.

Raul Meireles gave the Portuguese a 1-0 halftime lead, and Tiago added two in the second half to complement Ronaldo's score and those from Simao Sabrosa, Hugo Almeida and Liedson.

"It was a great day for Portugal and Portuguese football," Queiroz said. "The players are really happy with the way they played, the attitude for the game, the beautiful football, the beautiful goals."

Portugal still has to play Brazil to get into the round of 16. The five-time champions have already qualified.

The 7-0 victory was the most one-sided World Cup match since Germany beat Saudi Arabia, 8-0, at the 2002 tournament in South Korea and Japan.

Spain got its win of the tournament at Ellis Park, but it was Chile that moved into first place in Group H with six points by tossing 10-man Switzerland, 1-0.

David Villa took care of the offense against the Hondurans, scoring in the 27th and 51st minutes.

Villa, who has five career World Cup goals for his country, had a chance for a hat trick in the 62nd minute, but his penalty kick went wide of the right post with the goalkeeper diving in the opposite direction.

"If we beat Chile we've practically group winners, so we're happy," Villa said.

In Port Elizabeth, Chile substitute Mark Gonzalez scored the only goal in the 77th, heading in a pass from Esteban Paredes to break Switzerland's record streak of stoppages. Switzerland set a World Cup mark in the 1000 minutes by going 311 minutes without allowing a goal, breaking the record of 310 held by Italy at the 1986 and 1990 tournaments. AP

RP pugs primed for battle vs Thai, Chinese

By Cedelf B. Tapao

A STERN TEST AWAITS THE PHILIPpine boxing team when it sees action in the Manny V. Pangilinan International Boxing Friendship Cup next month.

With Thailand and China fielding clutch teams, the Filipinos will have their hands full in the tournament set July 14 to 19 at the PICC Forum here in Ormoc.

But Philippine Boxing Association of the Philippines executive director Ed Picson is confident that the RP pugs, toughened by a training stint in China, will do well in the tournament, which has also drawn entries from Hong Kong, Macau, Sri Lanka and Chinese Taipei.

"We would like to get our feet wet first but not drown," Picson said yesterday at the PBA Forum, sponsored by Asrol, Shakey's Pizza, Magnol and Oishi Pillows at Shakey's U.N. avenue.

Thailand will parade 2004 Olympic silver medalist Worapol Bechkoon, who looks headed for a collision with top featherweight Charley Suarez, a member of what Picson described as the Ateneo "super elite team."

At last, the Philippines will be fielding two teams in the men's division and five men's boxers, led by Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Jessie Allosada, in the women's division of the tournament, which the dingy league will eventually duplicate the success of the Aspire's Cup, held annually in the late 1990s.

SPORTSWATCH

Pascua, Bernales move up in Asian junior chess

DASMA, INDIA—FILIPINO JETS ICZE MAESTRO IMPERIAL PASCUA AND Dorothy Joy Bernales moved up respectively in the seventh round of the 2010 Asian Juniors boys and girls championships at the Inlay Park and Business Hotel on Monday.

Pascua outwitted Indian C.R.G. Krishna to climb to 4.5 points in the boys division while Bernales stunned Indian Shrihadi Bhatja in her second straight victory to share top spot with 5 points on the girls' side.

The 17-year-old Pascua vaulted into a share of 17th to 21st places among 174 rivalries. 1.5 points off leader International Master Zaradze Shyam of India.

Bernales, on the other hand, climbed into a share of 16th to 22nd places among 64 foes, 2.5 points away from co-leaders Ni Hua Yu The Kim Phung of Vietnam and 4th Int. Goldschlag Stephanie of Kazakhstan. Ray Gutierrez

Governor's Cup 5-cocker fires off at SJC today

SOME 150 QUALITY FIGHTS ARE ON THE ROOSTER IN THE SONGHKOKITE Cup 5-Cock Derby which gets going today at the San Juan Coliseum.

The derby, a hard-raising affair hosted by Gov. Eddie Ilarry Plaza, Manila's sole landmark, is open to all cockers and features participants from Barangay Tondominal, Davao Cebu, Iligasan del Sur Bicol and Leyte, according to SJC pit manager Toto Valentino.

Meanwhile, three participants raised the 1, Gamesterne 4-Cock Derby at the same venue last Monday—Chris Aklan of Pangasinan LIMJI brothers, Jam Martin of La Union Bicolandi Prapci and Rey Adams of Tarlac. Bianca Bautista

'Asaul' derby comes off wraps at PCC Friday

A ONE-DAY SHOWDOWN MOSTLY BY THE MANILA'S CLOSEY DEGUEAS entries on Friday at the Pasay City cockpit through the "Asaul de Pasay" 3-cock derby.

More than P700,000 in guaranteed prize awaits the winners, according to host Arnel Cordoza, an upcoming gamefowl breeder from Candaba who enjoys the support of PCC pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Rodelyn Sario.

Official entries must be submitted tomorrow from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. For inquiries, call 8833888, 8825746 or 09157867987.

By Top Choice: Sarna Ara Perk

Focus on Maradona, WC coach

THE ECCENTRIC DIEGO MARADONA, ONE of football's greatest players, has been enjoying the respect of soccer pundits as head coach of two-time World Cup champion Argentina.

With two early victories in his pocket, plus the fact that several pre-tournament favorites are rolling by the wayside, Maradona and his mighty squad could very well be favorites to win Jules Rimet trophy in South Africa.

Although he has been unable to get star Lionel Messi, the current "World Player of the Year" who's with Spanish Barcelona, Maradona has assembled Argentina to a narrow 1-0 win over Nigeria and a lusty 4-1 thrashing of South Korea in Group B.

"We deserved these victories because this was the type of game we had to win in achieving our goal," said Maradona, who is seeking his first World Cup title as a coach.

Halftime, the tough but sweet-feeling intermission, highly favored three-time champion Brazil could have done better than a 2-0 win over Ivory Coast as Luis Fabiano and Elano Blumer each scored in the second of 30, with the Brazilians' passing an emphatic 5-1 victory over Ivory Coast and the Dutch making it six-a-narrow 1-0 win over a stubborn Japan.

On the other hand, three-time winner Germany suffered a stunning 0-1 reversal as Serbia is in Group D's fourth last Friday night while, a big surprise that, pre-tournament favorite Spain, the European champion, took 0-1 to Switzerland in Group H, sending the Spaniards' 12-game winning streak.

Another wire-country pick, England, was held to a 0-0 draw by Algeria in last Saturday and earlier smoked her a 1-1 draw with the surprising United States in the Group C opener. This result pushed the 1966 World Cup champion on the brink of elimination with one game remaining against group leader Slovenia.

Slovenia leads the group with four points, followed by England and the US with two each and Algeria one point.

* * *

Meanwhile, Mexico booked its first win over 1998 winners France, 2-0, in Group A on Thursday, sending the French to a possible exit. France, with just a point after two games, takes on South Africa at their final game.

But even a strong night out for enough for French coach Raymond Domenech's lackadaisical team to stave off disaster. Group host-nation Mexico and Uruguay, a two-time World Cup champion, have both collected six points and only to down their respective matches to qualify for the next round.

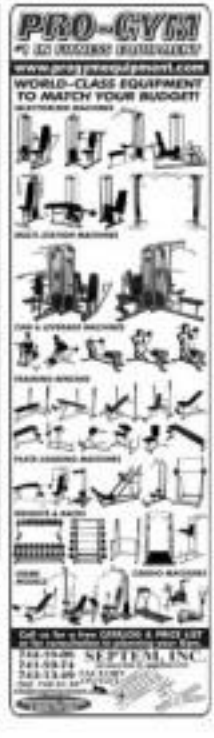
Although coach Dunga has spent millions of Brazilians by leaving behind veteran players Ronaldinho, Alexandre Pato and Adriano, Brazil still believes he has enough talents in the team to strike a dark World Cup.

In the meantime, defending champion Italy is in disarray.

According to The Associated Press, coach Marcello Lippi has been struggling with the team's formation, changing at random his line-up during warm-up games.

Still, frustration is not the only problem. The bruised team has also been weakened by injuries to many key midfielders.

Overall, many football fans consider Brazil as their top pick to climb the Jules Rimet trophy. The Macedonian-led Argentina and the Netherlands follow in that order.



RP U-18 cagebelles duel Thais

THE CAGEBELLES PHILIPPINE TEAM, LED by Danica Jose and Lou Rivera, battles Thailand at the start of Level 2 activities the Filoi Sun 6/7-18 Women's Champ ionship at Cyprus today on the Same Thani gymnasium in Thailand.

Coach Patrick Aquino expects a better showing than the Batanes6' seventh-place finish in the U-17 Women's Championship in India last November.

"We may not be strong on paper, but we'll give other teams a good fight," told Aquino. "While the same we're playing, I know we can win."

The Batanes6, who trained in Taipei in April, are bounded with the host team, India, Syria, Sri Lanka and Laos.

Powerhouse squads China, Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia and Kazakhstan clash in Level 1. AM Dejo

Cyna 2 shots off WWGA pace

REIGNING PHILIPPINE AMATEUR Ladies Open champion Cyna Rodriguez fired a two-under 70 and lay in joint second at the start of the 11th WWGA (Women's Western Golf Association) National Amateur Championship at the Rochester Golf and Country Club in Rochester, Minnesota, Monday.

Rodriguez rallied with a 32 coming in and raced two shots off leader Amy Anderson of North Dakota. The ICTSI ace shared second with Solange Ortiz.

Mia Pirrie matched par 72 and tied for fourth with Lauren Medbourne of Australia, Anahi Urquiza of Chile and Jessie Anne Imal e '75 as the ICTSI-backed Swiss turned in decent rounds in the 36-hole stroke play qualifier.

The top 64 players after two rounds will advance to the match play phase.

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Kings take on hot Llamados

Coffee Masters fight for life

By Musong R. Castillo

GINEBRA is expected to lean again on Dorian Br ers. AUGUST 2010 FILE

BARANGAY GINEBRA AND DERBY ACE... stirer squeals who have had contrasting fortunes of late, slug it out in the PBA 35... nola Conference ofBalintawak this with an odd... for watching with utmost interest from the sidelines.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao with idle Alaska—which has had surmountable hurdles against both squads... absolutely tossing ice cools by the Kirin bags. A victory by the rampaging Gin-kings will practically shut the door on the San Mig Coffee make the semifinals outright.

As things stand, the No. 2 spot—and the coveted outright Final Four slot—is still up for grabs with San Miguel Beer (12-3) just half a game clear of the Gin-kings, and Alaska lurking a full game behind.

The Aces have a game at hand against the Beermen, whereas wha a victory by the Kings will put Alaska's fate in its own hands.

Stunning Alaska's hopes is the fact the Kings surely need a victory of their own. Ginebra has lost three straight and is standing on victory knots, its 9-6 card within reach of Coca-Cola and Shins.

The Kings are trying to seal a complicated-for quarterfinals slot and relegate the Tigers and Elasto Painters to the one-win-you-die wild-card phase.

If Ginebra wins and Alaska bests San Miguel, Derby Ace—even if it wins against Barako Coffee later in the week—will settle for a quarterfinal slot due to an inferior quotient.

The Aces and Gin-kings will then square off in a playoff to determine which team advances outright to the semifinals as the No. 3 seed, behind only-qualifier Talk 'N Text.

The Coffee Masters, meanwhile, fight for dear life against the nothing-to-gain Texters in the 5 p.m. contest, with coach Ariel Vanguardia finally well when it took on Talk 'N Text in the most important game of the tournament.

"I just wish that Talk 'N Text would relax against us," Barrell had said last week.

A loss by the Coffee Masters would virtually ensure the downers for them for the second straight conference and all but ADD a few nukes to the wild card.

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MB Tour's Malarayat leg fires off

By Musong R. Castillo

A CRACK PHILIPPINE ROSTER SEEKS to dominate the field as the Mercedes-Benz Tour's ICTSI Mt. Malarayat Championship tees off today at the well-manicured course in Lipa City.

Matt Penny, fresh off a victory on the final ICTSI Tour three weeks ago, and Jason Sagisaka, a winner in Thailand two weeks back, banner the Philippine charge in the $50,000 event that dawn some of the best in the Southeast Asian region.

There's also Jay Bayron, the 36-year-old duke of Mercy leader who will try to snap a string of runner-up finishes and claim his first international win on Lipa's.

Elmer Salvador, though, looms as the most dangerous Filipino in the tournament. The reigning Philippine Open champion has always played well at Malarayat, where he also topped the field of the ICTSI Tour last January.

Antonio Monasterial, the lively Filipino-Japanese, will also come into the event in sharp form, having finished third in Penny and Salvador at Forest Hills in Antipolo.

Wisit Arjitsawat, the boyish-looking Thai who knows what it takes to win in the Philippines, spearheads the best-solid Thailand delegation.

Udom Duangdecha, who downed Bayron a breakthrough international win at the Singha Thonpo Open a couple of months back, is also entered and will try to make a dent on Bayron's OOM lead.

Arjitsawat beat the Philippines' finest in the Tagaytay leg two years ago, holding off Angelo Que, Penny and Monasterial in a torrid display of four-round scoring.

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Work with us to prevent flooding, MMDA chair asks Metro mayors

By Nitz Calleja

TO HELP PREVENT FLOODING WITH THE onset of the rainy season, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday called on Metro mayors to relocate informal settlers living on riverbanks and clear waterways of garbage.

"We are all public servants and should therefore work hand in hand for the protection and common good of the people," MMDA Chair Oscar Inocencio said in a statement.

At the same time, he asked local officials to monitor developments in their area and to strictly implement the law.

WOMB-ASJ

'OPLAN BAWI'

Cops recover 216 guns

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MORE THAN 200 FIREARMS have been recovered from former Quezon City policemen through the Philippine National Police's "Oplan Bawi (take back)" program.

Chief Supt. Benjamin Magalong, Quezon City Police District (QCPD) director, yesterday said that the long and short firearms were recovered from former lawmen who had retired, resigned or had been dismissed from the service.

In addition, some of the guns were returned by policemen who had been assigned to other areas.

Magalong said the recovered firearms would be distributed to new policemen once these are properly documented.

The QCPD chief said Oplan Bawi was launched two years ago and they have recovered 216 firearms since then.

According to Insp. Maricar Tugadiao, QCPD information officer, they would file administrative charges against former city policemen who would refuse to turn over their weapons.

She said that they have so far filed 99 cases against errant lawmen who had refused to give back the firearms issued to them despite repeated demands.

"It's government property; they know they have to return the gun after their tour of duty in the city," Tugadiao said.

She added that the highest ranking official on their list of errant policemen was an official with the rank of superintendent.

Tugadiao explained that a letter had been tasked to personally retrieve the firearms from the policemen.

"We conduct a house-to-house retrieval as part of the intensified campaign against unreturned guns," she said.

She added that a 9mm gun, the type usually issued to policemen, costs around P20,000.

Tugadiao also explained that policemen who are assigned to other areas are required under the law to turn over their issued weapons.

"They are required to surrender their weapons because in their new assignments, they will be issued another firearm," she said.

Man killed over rowdy rendition of Korean pop song

By Jeannette I. Andrade

"MOBBED" A KOREAN SINGER in an all-girl Korean pop group, proved deadly for a 32-year-old man in Manila who was bashed to death on Monday night by drunken patrons of a videoke bar who were apparently irked by his conspicuous display of his popular diny.

Michael Viray, a resident of Dasmariñas, Cavite, was declared dead on arrival at Manila Doctors Hospital from multi-wounds in the face and neck.

His attacker/s/ whom witnesses failed to identify fled after the stabbing.

PO3 Jay Ramirez of the Manila Police District homicide section said the victim was attacked at around 10:30 p.m. on Monday at Bonnie Place Videoke Bar at the corner of Guerrero Street and UN Avenue in Ermita.

Just minutes before he was stabbed, Viray and his friends were drinking at the bar when they decided to sing the Wonder Girls' hit song.

Their rendition, however, irked another group of drinkers at a nearby table who made their displeasure known by shouting down the duet.

At this point, the bar reports say, immediately intervened to prevent a brawl between the groups.

He asked the group at the other table to leave and then instructed his employees to lock the grill gates of the bar to keep the troublemakers out while allowing Viray and his friends to stay.

Viray, however, decided to approach the other group in an attempt to placate them but one of the men promptly stabbed him in the face and in the neck through the grills.

DID YOU KNOW

IF THE 13.1 million students enrolled in elementary schools in the academic year 2008-2009 should fill pressed or 12.8 million were in public schools.

Cyril Bonalbeck
Inquirer Research

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Regional Office No. III-A
3F Andrelan Bldg. C. Blgy. Tarlac, Calumba City
Telefax/Fax: (045) 340-0000

June 21, 2010

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following local/private individuals have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National Applicant	Position
1	ADVANTEX, INC. 29F E. Blgy. Points, Calamba City	Mr. Philipson Paul Frederic Michel Francis	Chief Operating Officer (COO)
2	BRIDGESTONE PHILIPPINES CORPORATION LOC. Floridena, Cavite	Mr. Sakurauchi Mutsuaki Application	Assistant Factory Manager
3	C & F MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION LOC. Floridena, Cavite	Mr. Arvind Chandel Indian	Purchasing Manager
4	C & F MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION LOC. Floridena, Cavite	Mr. Zdenek Bed Indian	Financial Comptroller

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, JR., CESO III
Regional Director

Lim closes bar said to be employing sex workers

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO Lim ordered a city undercover team to go after the owners of a bar in Malate which he personally shut down yesterday following reports that it was being used as a front for prostitution.

Lim also told the officials to file charges against Jeremias Candaula, who was reportedly acting as a dummy for the owners of L.A. Café located at the corner of B. Salas and M. H. del Pilar Streets.

Responding to the mayor, he had information that the real owners of the bar were Jon Antonio John Thorpe and Christer Bjurander. He asked Manila Police District director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magbitang to verify that and to file charges against the foreigners.

Lim earlier ordered the closure of the bar based on the recommendation of Manila Department of social welfare (DSWF) chief Jay dela Pazote who said that several women, including minors, were working in the establishment as sex workers.

Dela Pazote said that charges for violation of Republic Act 9208 (qualified human trafficking) and Republic Act 7610 (child abuse law) had been filed against the alleged managers of the bar identified as Diedricks Viray, Rodolfo Tejo and Gino Perez, supervised Lilia Mercantillo; and Carla Serrano and Nora Abellano, who reportedly served as pimps.

Last Thursday, authorities searched up over 200 women, including minors, during a raid on the establishment after the Inter-national Justice Mission sent-to Lim on complaints about the bar which it claimed was engaged in prostitution.

Lim, meanwhile, ordered Inman to make sure that the bar does not reopen even under a new name or business entity. He also asked Magbitang to detail all-women commandos to stop similar establishments from operating in their areas.

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim shuts down the L. A. Café in Malate following reports that it was a front for prostitution.

Republic of the Philippines
Region I
PROVINCE OF LIGAO DEL NORTE
Gov. Amante G. Quiterio Provincial Center
Pigsanguan, Tubao, Ligao Del Norte

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Ligao Del Norte is hereby inviting bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of various drugs and medicines, laboratory supplies and medical supplies for various Government Hospitals/Rural Health Units.

ITEM	Approved Budget for the Contract
A. General Fund	
1. Various Drugs and Medicines	P 4,846,880.00
2. Various Medical Laboratory and Medical Supplies	P 1,846,880.00
3. Various Intravenous Fluids	P 2,846,780.00
B. Hospital Fund	
1. Various Drugs and Medicines	P 4,846,880.00
2. Various Medical Laboratory and Medical Supplies	P 876,780.00

PARTICULARS	DATE
Issuance/Submission of Bids/Opening of Bids	June 28, 2010
Post-Qualification	July 7, 2010
Issuance of Notice of Award	July 14, 2010
Delivery of Goods	July 14, 2010

For more information, please call BAC Secretariat, Telephone No. 302-04-14(D)

Any missing item to be supplied by the Supplier/Bidder shall be charged at the same unit price quoted by the Supplier/Bidder, subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The Province of Ligao Del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids, and waive any formalities or technicality, and to accept the most advantageous Bid to the Government. Only those declared eligible shall be entitled to participate in the bidding. Bidders declared ineligible may file a request for reconsideration within a period of seven (7) calendar days from receipt of the notice of disqualification. Failure to file a request within this period shall result in the forfeiture of the right to participate in the bidding. Bidders declared ineligible may file a request for reconsideration within a period of seven (7) calendar days from receipt of the notice of disqualification. Failure to file a request within this period shall result in the forfeiture of the right to participate in the bidding.

Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of Bicol, Philippines through Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) being offered by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to bid for the following project:

Project ID / Name of Facilities	Approved Budget for the Contract
Construction of Provincial Capitol Building	P 100,000,000.00
Construction of Provincial Capitol Building	P 100,000,000.00

To be qualified, the prospective bidder must submit the following documents: (1) Valid PCAB License and Registration for the corresponding category; (2) Valid Mayor's Permit; (3) Valid Tax Clearance; (4) Valid Income Tax Return; (5) Valid Business Permit; (6) Valid Audited Financial Statement; (7) Valid Bank Certificate; (8) Valid Bank Reference; (9) Valid Bank Guarantee; (10) Valid Bank Guarantee; (11) Valid Bank Guarantee; (12) Valid Bank Guarantee; (13) Valid Bank Guarantee; (14) Valid Bank Guarantee; (15) Valid Bank Guarantee; (16) Valid Bank Guarantee; (17) Valid Bank Guarantee; (18) Valid Bank Guarantee;

US Supreme Court upholds antiterror law

WASHINGTON—THE SUPREME Court upheld the US government's authority on Monday to ban aid to designated terrorist groups, even when that support is intended to assist the groups to avoid peaceful and legal activities.

The court left intact a federal law that the Obama administration says is needed to help deprive terrorist groups of resources to engage in violence against them.

But human rights organizations say the law's ban on providing training and advice to nearly two dozen organizations on a State Department list squanders millions in personnel people-to-personnel entertainment.

The justices issued rare evidence to reject a free-speech challenge from humanitarian aid groups in the law that bars "material support"—everything from money to orchestral lessons how to legal advice—to foreign terrorist organizations.

The aid groups were only challenging provisions that put them at risk of being prosecuted for talking to terrorist organizations about nonviolent activities.

But Chief Justice John Roberts said in his opinion for the court that material support intended even for benign purposes could help a terrorist group in other ways.

"Such support frees up other resources within the organization that may be put to violent ends," Roberts said in an opinion joined by four other conservative justices, and also the liberal-leaning John Paul Stevens.

Justice Stephen Breyer took the unusual step of reading his dissent aloud in the courtroom.

"Not even the 'serious and deadly problem' of international terrorism can require across-the-board forfeiture of First Amendment rights," Breyer said, referring to the provision in the US Constitution that guarantees freedom of speech. Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor joined the dissent.

Solicitor General Elena Kagan argued the government's case at the high court more than two months ago before President Barack Obama nominated her to replace Stevens, who will retire in June.

The Obama administration said the "material support" law was one of its most important terror-fighting tools. It has been used about 150 times since Sept. 11, resulting in 75 convictions. Most of those cases involved money and other substantial support for terrorist groups.

Only a handful dealt with the kind of speech involved in the case decided on Monday.

Human rights groups said they were stunned by the ruling.

David Cole, a Georgetown law professor who represented the aid groups as the Supreme Court argued their case, essentially ruled that "the First Amendment permits the government to make human rights advocacy and peacemaking a crime."

The aid groups involved had asked the Kurdistan Workers' Party in Turkey on how to bring human rights complaints to the United Nations and assisted them to press negotiations, but suspended the activities when the United States designated the Kurdish organization, known as the PKK, a terrorist group in 1997.

The aid groups also wanted to give similar help to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka, but they, too, were designated a terrorist organization by the United States in 1997.

Representatives of the Tamil Tigers appealed the designation to a federal appeals court, which upheld the government. The PKK has not challenged its terrorist designation. AP

Indon rock star in sex video surrenders

JAKARTA—AN INDONESIAN rock star on Tuesday surrendered to police after two homemade sex videos of him and his celebrity girlfriends appeared online, sparking a raging debate about Internet porn.

Singer Nazril Adel, 28, has been at the center of the "Peterporn" scandal, named after his band Peterpan, since the grainy but explicit videos were revealed on Indonesian websites earlier this month.

Adel surrendered today at 1 a.m. after police issued him a request for breathing the anti-pornography law. If he hadn't surrendered we would have requested him," said police deputy spokesperson Agustinus Lubis.

The majority Muslim country's first celebrity sex video scandal has underscored the widening gulf between traditional values and modern, Internet-driven youth culture in the freedom-loving archipelago.

SINGER Nazril Ariel and his current girlfriend, Luna Maya, give their side of the steamy controversy in a television interview. —

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has cited the videos in raising his support for tougher controls on the Internet.

"We have increasingly realized that our nation should not stay naked and be crushed by the information technology frenzy, because there will be many victims," he told reporters on Friday.

The videos were apparently filmed by Ariel and appear to show him having sex with his current girlfriend Luna Maya, 26, and his ex-girlfriend Cut Tari, 32, on separate occasions.

Both women were prominent television personalities but their careers have imploded since the videos were made public and they have been dropped by their corporate sponsors.

Tari, who is married and also could face up to nine months in prison for adultery, is due for another round of questioning later on Tuesday, police said.

The celebrities deny uploading the video but they could still face up to 12 years in jail for breaches of the country's 2008 anti-pornography law.

The case is the first major test of the law, which critics will jettison economics for anyone who produces, disseminates, makes or provides pornography. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Oil threatens key Gulf algae, ecosystem

BALIPIN ISLAND—It looks dirty and muddy, a former mass of weeds with gas-filled berries that allow it to float on the Gulf of Mexico's waters. Sometimes it washes ashore, getting caught in the tide of barefoot beachgoers or stuck to the bottom of the flops. These Sargassum algae—sometimes called sea holly or Gulf weed—are key to hundreds of species of marine life in the Gulf. Now, the oil is threatening to suffocate them, dashing a blow to fisheries and the ecosystem that scientists say may take years to recover. Across the algae die or the Gulf, less of the vital plants will circulate in the open sea. Sargassum is 100 kilometers away through the loop current—potentially harming that ecosystem as well. AP

Top general in Afghan war apologizes

WASHINGTON—The top US war commander in Afghanistan on Tuesday apologized for an interview in which he said he felt betrayed by the man the White House chose to be his diplomatic partner, Ambassador Karl Eikenberry. An article out this week in Rolling Stone magazine depicts Gen. Stanley McChrystal as a loose cannon on the radio with many important figures in the Obama administration and unable to conceal even some of his own subtlies that his strategy can win the war. A friend of McChrystal's portrays Eikenberry and his quoted mocking Vice President Joe Biden and Richard Holbrooke, the special US representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. On Tuesday, McChrystal issued a statement saying: "I believed my comments apologize for this profile. It was a mistake reflecting poor judgment and should never have happened." AP

Americans remain upbeat, says latest poll

WASHINGTON—Americans remain a generally upbeat lot, but all the skepticism, snark and dismal rhetoric being handed about may be taking its toll. Nearly two-thirds of people answering a Pew Research Center for The People and The Press/Smithsonian Magazine poll said they are optimistic about their future and that of the country—and a majority expect the economy to be strong in the future. But while it's still a positive picture, it's much less so than it was just over a decade earlier. AP

Gang members burn bus, killing 14

SAN SALVADOR—Gang members opened fire on a bus on the outskirts of El Salvador's capital, then doused it with gasoline and set it on fire, killing at least 14 passengers in what the president on Monday called an act of terror. Police managed to break windows and help 13 people escape the flames but others died inside. Sixteen people suffered injuries in the attack, the worst in months, which left Vicente Funes gangs have leveraged the public transit system in this small Central American nation to extort bus workers and largely impoverished commuters and travelers. AP

Cops on alert as protest leader is mourned

BANGKOK—Security forces conveyed patrol a Buddhist temple in Thailand's capital where thousands of mourners were expected to pay their final respects on Tuesday to a renegade general associated of the height of last country's antigovernment protests. Police ordered the cremation of Maj. Gen. Khattiya Sawasdipol, shot in the head by a sniper while giving interviews to foreign journalists, would close Red Shirt opposition supporters from across the country. AP

Cambodia to hang antigenocide banners

PHNOM PENH—Giant antigenocide banners will be displayed at Cambodian schools starting next year as part of the ongoing quest to educate the young about the country's painful history. The education ministry approved a request to hang five banners at all 1,300 high schools nationwide, according to the country's leading independent Khmer Rouge research group, which proposed the idea and made the ministry's approval letter public on Tuesday. AP

Helicopter crash kills 3 Aussies, 1 American

KABUL—A helicopter crash killed three Australian commandos and a US service member before dawn on Monday in a rugged area of southern Afghanistan where fighting has raged for days. Five other international service members, including four Americans, died in separate attacks in the east and south, officials said. The latest deaths brought the number of international service members killed in Afghanistan this month to at least 62, including 41 Americans. AP

Young Chinese workers become more demanding

BEIJING—YOUNGER WORKERS more ready to up the majority of China's migrant labor force and are more likely to quit any where they feel their rights are being violated than older workers, according to a report by the country's official trade union umbrella group that hints at one reason for the recent wave of labor unrest.

The report by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions comes in the wake of high-profile strikes at plants run by foreign car makers including Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co.

A spate of worker suicides at the enormous complex operated by Hon Hai Precision in the southern city of Shenzhen also drew attention to the invisible armies many young workers face in factory complexes.

Young migrant workers between the ages of 16 and 30 number about 100 million, making up nearly two-thirds of China's estimated 150 million migrant laborers and nearly half of the country's 230 million workers overall, according to the study.

The study was conducted in 10 cities from March to May, although the report didn't say how many workers had been interviewed.

The average younger migrant worker runs aged 22, had finished up school and had an education and 80 percent were unmarried, the study said.

It characterized the younger generation—known as the "post-1980s generation"—as more willing to the complaints when their rights are violated and less fearful of authorities than the older generation.

The study noted that younger migrant workers were "more aware of equality and rights," and had higher expectations of getting equal jobs, labor and social welfare, education and arts, as basic policy and theoretical rights.

It said the young workers were "showing a higher willingness of defending their rights," according to the surveys taken by the national union, only 6.3 percent of the younger workers said a fear of retaliation would prevent them from filing complaints, compared with 13 percent of their older counterparts.

The report said resolving the problems facing the new generation of migrant workers was important to avoid social unrest. AP

Study aids war on lice

WASHINGTON—IN THEIR quest to understand how life works, researchers on Monday reported in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that they have sequenced the genome of the human body louse.

That is a right, hence annoying little creature that lives on human blood and place their eggs in clothing.

From a practical standpoint, the findings could lead to better ways to eliminate this parasite, which can carry diseases to people, according to the researchers at the J. Craig Venter Institute in Rockville, Maryland, and Barry B. Pittendrigh of the University of Illinois, Urbana.

It turns out that the human body louse relies for its digestion on a specific type of bacteria, which in turn relies on an endosymbiosis.

So finding a way to get drugs to the bacteria might kill the lice, too. Knowing more about the way also lead to new types of repellent.

The louse genome is small and contains relatively few genes related to light reception or reacting to odors and tastes, the study found.

According to the researchers, the human body louse evolved from the human head louse about the time people started wearing clothes, offering his another place to live.

In addition, the researchers found that the human louse and the Chimpanzee louse evolved from a common ancestor between 5 million and seven million years ago.

It's been more than an annoyance ever since, potentially carrying typhus, relapsing fever and trench fever.

"Beyond its importance in the control of human health, the body louse genome is of considerable importance to understanding insect evolution," May R. Berenbaum, head of the entomology department at the University of Illinois, said in a statement. AP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 801 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/s)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporate/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications to hire Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

If you have any information/position to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Branch.

[illegible]
Regional Director

The WORLD

Cito Lorenzo B. Gozo

NYC bomb suspect pleads guilty

NEW YORK—CALLING himself a Muslim soldier, a defiant Pakistan-born US citizen pleaded guilty on Monday to carrying out the failed Times Square car bombing and left a sinister warning that unless the US leaves Muslim lands alone, "we will be attacking the US."

Faisal Shahzad entered the plea at the US District Court in Manhattan just days after a federal grand jury indicted him on 10 terrorism and weapons counts, some of which carry mandatory life sentences. He pleaded guilty to them all.

Widely circulated snapshots of Shahzad—a US-raised financial analyst and married father of two—show him with a neatly trimmed beard, all smiles and looking carefree behind sunglasses or with his American wife. When led into court on Monday his hair is in a white skull cap and prisoner's uniform, his beard shaggy and his demeanor serious.

US District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum challenged Shahzad repeatedly with questions such as whether he incited or the people in Times Square, especially the children, to see who they were or whether he really built the bomb by himself.

The accused repeatedly insisted he had acted without help from others in the United States and built the bomb "all by myself."

"The law is unequivocal when I'm coming from," Shahzad said calmly. "I consider myself . . . a Muslim soldier."

The 30-year-old Shahzad described his effort to set off a bomb in an SUV that he parked in Times Square on May 1, saying he chose the warm Saturday night because it would be crowded with people he could injure or kill.

He said he had conspired with the Pakistani Taliban, which provided more than $15,000 to fund his operations and five days of explosives training in the last year and early this year, just months after he became a US citizen.

He explained that he packed his vehicle with three separate bomb components, hoping to set off a fertilizer-fueled bomb packed in a gas canister, a set of propane tanks and gas canisters rigged with fireworks to explode into a fireball, He also revealed he was carrying a fledgling remote device "self-defense."

Shahzad said he lit a fuse and assumed one and a half minutes or five minutes for the bomb to erupt.

"I was waiting to hear a sound but I didn't hear a sound . . . So I walked to Grand Central and went home," he said.

The bomb's apparently ignored, escaping smoke that attracted the attention of an alert street vendor, who notified police, setting in motion a rapid evacuation of blocks of a city still healing from the shock of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

The Connecticut resident, who was born in Pakistan and moved to the United States when he was 18, was arrested trying to leave the country on May 3, two days after the bomb failed to ignite near a Broadway theater.

Authorities said Shahzad immediately cooperated, delaying his initial court appearance for two weeks as he spilled details of a plot meant to sow terror in the world-famous Times Square when it was packed with thousands of potential victims. AP

FACIAL Shahzad with US District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum from his last planned to set off a bomb in an SUV that he parked in Times Square on May 1. AFP

Afghans turn to opium

KABUL—DRUG ADDICTS AS young as 9 crowds old. Mothers who take their children by blowing opium smoke in their faces. Whole communities hooked on heroin with few opportunities for treatment.

Use of opium such as heroin and opium has doubled in Afghanistan in the last five years, the United Nations said on Monday, as hundreds of thousands of Afghans turn to drugs to escape the misery of poverty and war.

Nearly three percent of Afghans aged 15 to 64 are addicted to opium, according to a study by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

That puts Afghanistan, along with Russia and Iran, as the top three countries for opium drug use worldwide, according to Sarah Wilde, an official of the UN drug office in Kabul.

Wilde said a 2005 survey found about 1.4 percent of Afghan adults were opium addicts.

The data suggest that even as the United States and its allies pour billions of dollars into programs to try to wean the Afghan economy off of drug money, opium and heroin have become more entrenched in the face of ordinary Afghans. AP

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Editor Raul G. Manalo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS
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RP budget deficit swells to over ₱162B

By Roxanne W. Dorotan

Gov't overspending exceeds 1st half goal of P145B

THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDget deficit in the first five months reached P162.1 billion, increasing by almost a third from the P123.2 billion seen last year as growth in expenses rose faster than that of revenue.

Already, the budget gap in the first five months in May exceeded the government's cap of P145.2 billion.

Budget Secretary Margarito B. Teves yesterday said that, despite the higher-than-planned deficit, the revised full-year budget gap ceiling of P300 billion could still be kept.

"We will likely break the first half deficit ceiling by P15.3 billion in end-June," Teves said. "But this could be offset by the projected P50 billion in revenue from privatizations, which could still come in the second half of the year."

The government hopes that revenue operations will outstrip their encouraging performance as seen in the first five months of the year, Teves said.

In the five months to May, revenues reached P800 billion, or 9.6 percent more than the P456.2 billion posted in the same period last year.

Of that amount, the Bureau of Internal Revenue contributed P544.1 billion, up 9.2 percent from P515.2 billion. The Bureau of Customs chipped in P237.3 billion, up 27.1 percent from P94.5 billion.

On the other hand, the Bureau of the Treasury noted in P23.3 billion, which was 20.1 percent lower than the P27.9 billion posted last year.

Other government offices yielded P27 billion, dipping 5.8 percent from P28.5 billion.

Five-month expenditures reached P962.1 billion, increasing 14.3 percent from P519.3 billion.

In May alone, the deficit amounted to P98.5 billion or more than double the P11.4 billion incurred in the same month of 2009.

Total revenue for the month reached P189.7 billion, an increase of 3.3 percent from P194.2 billion.

Of the total, the BIR chipped in P70 billion, which was 7.8 percent higher than the P73.5 billion posted the previous year.

The BOC contributed P24.1 billion, an increase of 21.4 percent from P19.8 billion.

BY BUDGET SEE

Gov't raised ₱8.5B from T-bond auction

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERday raised P8.5 billion from the auction of 10-year Treasury bonds and opened a tap facility to increase the amount of proceeds, hoping to cash in on the recovery's rising momentum.

Yield on the 10-year T-bonds fell by 18.8 basis points to an average of 7.643 percent in yesterday's auction.

Buyers flooded the offer with tenders that reached P21.586 billion—more than twice the amount of debt paper offered.

With the favorable rates in the cost of borrowing, National Treasurer Roberto S. Tan said buyers could avail of another P6.5 billion over the counter.

Tan said transactions made through the tap facility must be availed today. [more 21]

He added three factors that defined yesterday's auction were the positive news on benign inflation expectations, more optimistic outlook on the economy and the market's high level of liquidity.

"The combination of these factors affects any worries on [the swelling] budget deficit," said Tan, who is also a finance undersecretary.

He added that the auction results bound an inventory preference for longer-term government securities, hoping to lock in their favorable funds for the long haul.

Adding to the market's liquidity is the P9 billion in debt paper that will mature this week.

The maturing debt notes as-

SEE P21

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
June 22, 2010
45.700

STOCK MARKET
June 22, 2010
6.2

Shares succumb to profit-taking

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY dropped slightly, ending a six-day rally due to profit-taking.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 6.2 points, or 0.19 percent, from the previous day to close at 3,197.48 points. The slight drop was in line with movement of other Asian stocks, which came in on the low side as a result of fears over Europe's continuing debt crisis.

The broader all-shares index also dipped by 0.2 percent, or 4.23 points, to 2,132.83.

"There wasn't that much bad news. We had a long rally in the past week and there was some weakness in US stocks," said Lawrence de Leon, a trader from local brokerage Accord Capital. "Apart from that, the outlook is still positive."

He said China's decision to let its currency appreciate by removing the yuan's 23-month-old peg to the US dollar should affect Asian market sentiment in the coming weeks.

Earlier this week, the Bangko

SEE B15

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

RP among top recipients of remittances (2008, in US dollars)

SE Asia banks unfazed by debt turmoil in Europe

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANKING SECTORS OF the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries remain in good shape even with the debt turmoil in Europe, said Moody's Investors Service.

According to the credit rating firm, banks in this part of the world are strong enough to weather any adverse effects the crisis in the West may bring.

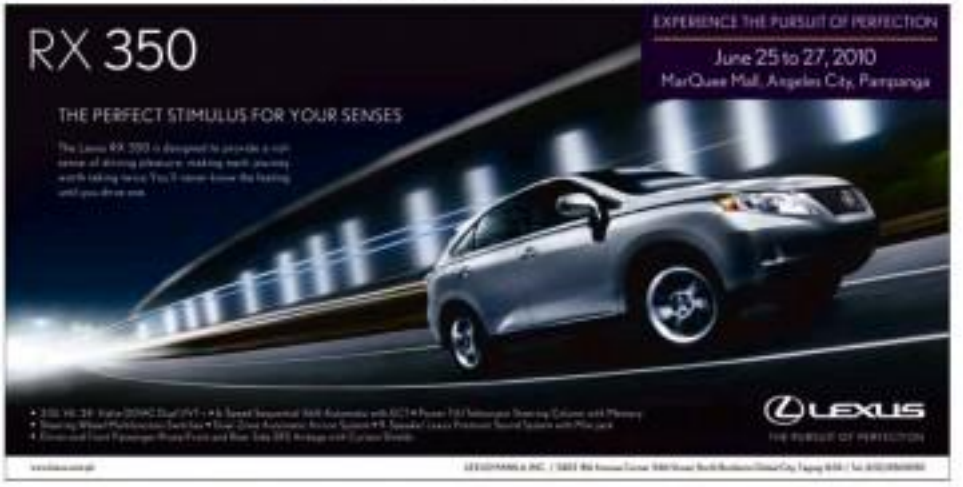
"With the exception of Vietnam and Cambodia, our benchmark Asian banking system outlooks are stable," said Deborah Schofer, senior vice president and regional credit officer for Asia-Pacific financial institutions at Moody's. "The region's banks are well positioned to cope with the Basel III capital and liquidity requirements, thanks to their strong capital levels, traditional banking franchises and customer deposit funded loan-to-deposit ratios."

Basel III refers to a new set of regulations and banking standards. It calls for stricter requirements that are meant to ensure the health of an economy's banking sector.

Schofer said the levels of non-performing loans and rising revenue in the Philippines and its neighbors reflected the strength of their respective banking systems.

In the case of the Philippines, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has expressed confidence that the

SEE A6



Unsung heroes

LAST WEEKEND'S CRISIS at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, courtesy of an air navigation system breakdown, again highlighted what is wrong with Philippine aviation. But it also brought to the fore what is right, especially in terms of Filipino ingenuity.

When Pinoy's VHF (Very-high-frequency) Range—a radio beacon that helps guide aircraft to the runway, especially at night—crashed out early Saturday morning, frantic air controllers came to the rescue.

The scene in Nasa's control tower was supposedly like a scene from the late 1990s movie "Pushing Tin," where air traffic controllers, played by John Cusack and Billy Bob Thornton, guided planes as they landed and took off, without even room for error.

But aside from the unsung heroes of Manila's air control tower, labor problems plagued Philippine Airlines also had something to cheer about. Despite the broken VOR, its pilots were able to land their wide-bodied jets using Visual Flight Rules and a separate radar in quick sight landings, have to a few flight diversions and delays due to the torrential downpour, the airline maintained normal operations, more or less.

The mood was a little different over at Cebu Pacific, however, which cancelled 28 of its Saturday flights. In keeping with official of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) blamed the airline for supposedly alarming the public unduly. Pfeiffer, TV crews arrived in on time Cebu Pacific passengers who complained about the inconveniences caused by the flight cancellations.

On the balance, however, the events airport fiasco proved to be yet another wake-up call for local aviation authorities. With only a single functioning runway, dilapidated air terminals and navigation aids that regularly break down in Nata, no wonder local carriers are falling behind their regional rivals.

Dustin L. Lucas

North and south

APPARENTLY, South Catabato would not be the first-ever area in the world to have open pit mining, should its environmental code pass into ordinance.

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy F. Avance-Fuentes is bent on both sides by anti- and pro-mining advocates professing for her ear on the proposed environmental code that have open pit mining.

Such a ban, if approved, would not only be a problem for the foreign investors backing the $5.2 billion Tampakan copper-gold project, which could be the largest foreign direct investment infusion into the Philippine economy.

The ban would also disrupt various small-scale mining operations and coal mining, where diversifying conglomerate San Miguel Corp. has ventured into.

Amid all this, Gov. Fuentes said she was weighing the pros and cons in terms of the environmental aspect, but also the legal implications. It has been pointed out that the Philippine Mining Act does not bestow form of mining).

In 2004, North Cotabato also passed an environmental-scale banning open pit mining, which then Governor Emmanuel Piñol signed into ordinance. With no active and large-scale open pit project, apparently, no one made noise about the ordinance.

The ordinance was so low-profile that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) only found out about it in 2007 when a prospective mining investor pointed it out.

The MGB wrote to Piñol urging that the local leaders rethink the ordinance, pointing out that it contradicts the Philippine Mining Act.

To this day, however, the ordinance still stands.

What some nobody made noise about North Cotabato? That is something we in South Cotabato are looking into," Fuentes said. Rizz P. Olaybar-dra

Departure bonus

NOT counting on being reappointed, given his lack of ties with President-elect Noynoy Aquino, Comelec Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer has already bid his employees' goodbye. He has also packed his things, all set to leave following the end of his term by the end of June.

An insider from the Bureau of Customs said Morales, who came from the ranks and has been in the BOC for more than 20 years, has visited with workers of some employees to thank them for their support and in any his case.

Morales caused some big smiles to appear on faces of some employees when he promised them hefty bonuses and incentives. This after the Bureau of Customs exceeded its monthly revenue collection targets for the year. Michelle F. Abanes

Return on investment

SINCE its controversial purchase in 2002 by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) for P4.6 million, Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" has been drawing a crowd of about 200,000 visitors yearly.

Ryan Pichel, manager of the GSIS Museo ng Buhay, said the painting accorded the museum "two-brand fame" since it was put up some 15 years ago.

"Perhaps it was the controversy or perhaps it is by word of mouth that people came to realize how significant this Luna masterpiece is, not only as a part of Philippine art, but of the country's history in general," Pichel said.

He notes that most of the Parisian Life visitors are not art critics or collectors, but students from different levels, both from public and private schools.

"Parisian Life" won a silver medal in the 1904 St. Louis Exposition. It was after Luna's translation painting from realism to impressionism.

According to the GSIS, the painting was bought with investable funds.—GSIS money for investing government securities—and not from the benefit funds of its members. Bernard M. Hemingo

Lending by rural banks up 12%

By Michelle V. Ilano

LOANS EXTENDED BY THE RURAL BANK-ing sector grew by 10-12 percent in the first quarter of the year, benefiting mostly small and medium enterprises, according to estimates of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines.

Chona Tiotuico, outgoing president of RBAP, said lending by industry members posted double-digit growth in the first three months of the year from a year ago, consistent with an improved overall economic climate.

Analysts said the estimated 10 to 12 percent increase in loans from the rural banking sector—from P106 billion in the first quarter of 2009—outpaced the strong demand from the SME sector as the economy registered faster growth following a sharp slowdown last year.

He said expansion in SME operations partly aided the overall growth of the economy in the first quarter. The economy, measured in terms of gross domestic product, grew by a robust 7.3 percent. This was much faster than the 0.5 percent in the same period last year.

However, Andaya said rural bank lending to the farm sector, their supposed main market, did not rise well during the period.

The government sector reported that the agriculture, fisheries and forestry (AFF) sector declined by 2.3 percent in the first quarter from a year ago. Officials blamed the bad weather during the period for the contraction of the AFF sector.

Andaya said the dry spell reduced farmers' incomes in the farm sector, thereby pulling down demand for loans.

He said though that demand might pick up once the El Nino weather phenomenon eases in the second half.

However, he said the expected increase in interest rates might dampen demand for loans.

Currently, the BSP's key policy rates are at historic lows of 6 percent for overnight borrowing and 8 percent for overnight lending. These also kept commercial banking rates low.

However, the BSP is expected to raise rates in key policy rates amid the strong economic growth that could trigger faster rise in demand for goods and services, which in turn might put pressure on the inflation.

FMIC: ₱300-B deficit won't hurt RP credit rating

By Michelle V. Reyno

THE GOVERNMENT CAN AFFORD TO RELAX a budget deficit of as much as ₱300 billion this year without jacking up its borrowing cost.

This was according to First Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC), which noted that such a deficit, equivalent to about 2.8 percent of the estimated gross domestic product of the country this year, would still be within prudent levels as far as the capital markets are concerned.

"The markets will still be comfortable with a ₱300-billion deficit. The additional supply [of debt securities from the government] will be welcomed by the market," FMIC executive vice president Ruberen Jimin Bello Okipo said.

Okipo said there was a lot of liquidity kept in banks right now, and so markets would cross an increase in the government's demand for funds.

He said liquidity in the system, which includes the near ₱9 trillion in bank deposits, was more than enough to meet the fund raising requirements of state councils and private companies.

As such, interest rates will likely stay relatively benign this year, Okipo said.

The Department of Finance earlier said the government might post a deficit of ₱300 billion this year. This is from an earlier target of ₱195 billion, which was already higher than the original deficit ceiling of only ₱175 billion.

Finance officials said the adjustments in the deficit caps for this year were made in view of the continuing need to pump-prime the economy which has just started to recover from last year's slowdown.

The DOF has expressed confidence a ₱300-billion deficit would not hurt its credit ratings, stressing that seven other countries have seen their budget gap widen in efforts to stimulate economies.

The government aimed to balance its budget by 2009 but was forced to abandon this goal due to the global turmoil, which brought to recession many economies worldwide.

The Philippines did not fall into recession, which officials said was due to the stimulus spending by the government. However, the economy slowed down substantially, posting a growth rate of only 3.1 percent last year from 5.8 percent in 2006 and 7.2 percent in 2007.

The DOF said the country would possibly achieve a balanced budget position not later than 2010.

Globe, BayanTel sign interconnection deal

By Paolo G. Montecillo

Arrangement covers Albay, Camarines

AYALA-LED GLOBE TELECOM INC. has signed a deal with one its rivals, the Lopez-led Bayan Telecommunications (BayanTel), which will allow the subscribers of both phone firms in the Bicol provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay to call each other without extra fees.

In a statement, Globe Telecom said it had signed a local interconnection agreement with BayanTel. The deal took effect on June 16, 2010.

With this development, Globe said it would be able to more easily provide its wireless products like landline telephony and broadband Internet and services in the provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay as it partners its network infrastructure with those of BayanTel.

"The interconnection allows individual (Globe/Innove and BayanTel) landline customers in Camarines Sur and Albay to call one another without any additional fee," Globe equivalent to 33 percent of the company's net income of P674 million in 2009. Shareholders of record as of July 20, 2010 are entitled to the cash dividends.

"It is the policy of Chemrez to share the fruits of its operations with its shareholders. In line with this policy, Chemrez has consistently been paying dividends since 2004," the company said.

Chemrez added it was able to deliver a strong financial performance in 2009, despite an uncertain economic environment, with consolidated sales growing 18 percent and net income rising by 27 percent.

It said the company was expecting demand for biodiesel to significantly increase in light of the government's plan to further increase the required biodiesel content of vehicle fuel and move from the current B2 blend (2 percent coco methyl ester blending in diesel) to eventually B5 blend (5 percent).

B2 was implemented starting February 2009 and contributed significantly to the 22 percent growth in the company's sales last year, B5 is expected to be mandated before the end of the year, it added. – Joey G. Bernardo

Chemrez OKs cash dividends worth P158.6M

CHEMREZ TECHNOLOGIES INC.—THE country's top biodiesel, resins and other chemicals producers—said its board had approved the declaration of cash dividends worth a total of P158.6 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Chemrez declared a regular cash dividend of six centavos (P0.06) per share and a special cash dividend of another six centavos (P0.06) per share.

The total dividend to be paid is equivalent to 33 percent of the company's net income of P474 million in 2009. Shareholders of record as of July 20, 2010 are entitled to the cash dividends.

"It is the policy of Chemrez to share the fruits of its operations with its shareholders. In line with this policy, Chemrez has consistently been paying dividends since 2004," the company said.

Chemrez added it was able to deliver a strong financial performance in 2009, despite an uncertain economic environment, with consolidated sales growing 18 percent and net income rising by 27 percent.

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B2 was implemented starting February 2009 and contributed significantly to the 22 percent growth in the company's sales last year. B5 is expected to be mandated before the end of the year, it added. – Joey G. Bernardo

SMDC launches Quezon City project

PROPERTY GIANT SM DEVELOPMENT Corp. (SMDC) of the Sy family is reserving to present units of its P2.8-billion condominium project to be located in a prime location in Quezon City.

The company on Tuesday disclosed that it had launched its latest residential development, dubbed My Place South Triangle.

Bounded by Panay Avenue and Mother Ignacia Street in Quezon City and only a few steps away from the MRT-GMA compound, the project is a four-tower condominium project that occupies about a hectare of land. Combined, the four towers will offer about 3,000 units for sale.

The first of the four residential towers will be completed by 2013.

"My Place South Triangle is SMDC's first project under the My Place brand, which embodies the company's pioneering concept to tap a younger market than yours for mid-premium living," SMDC president Roderico Cuneta said.

"Today's generation, middle-young adults who are at the early stages of a successful career and who would want a place to call their own, either for themselves alone or for their start-up families are a perfect fit for My Place homes," he said.

"Target her with our SM Residences brand, this new and exciting business model will further strengthen SMDC's product offerings."

Sizes of units offered range from 20 and 40 square meters, which are selling at as low as about P1 million. The developments will cost about P2 billion to build, SMDC said.

SMDC is the real estate arm of retail tycoon Henry Sy's business empire, which posted more than P40 billion in revenue at the end of the first quarter this year.

In the same period, SMDC booked a net income of P632 million in the first quarter of the year, up by 32 percent over the same period last year, as the company realized sales from residential condominium projects.

The consolidated revenue reached P2 billion, or 40 percent up from last year. – Paolo G. Montecillo

Robinsons to build mall in Pangasinan

LISTED FIRM ROBINSONS LAND Corp. is pursuing up a mall in Pangasinan, its 20th in a chain of retail establishments nationwide, to take advantage of the booming Central Luzon economy.

RLC, one the country's leading property developers, yesterday said in a statement it would soon start the construction of Robinsons Calasiao, which will be its first mall in the province.

The mall-based Calasiao mall will be built on a 5.6-hectare lot with a gross floor area of 31,000 square meters and a gross leasable area of 23,000 square meters (sqm). This brings the contiguous floor area of all 20 Robinsons malls to 1.3 million sqm.

"We hope to open our doors to the warm people of Pangasinan soon," said RLC president Frederick Go. "Robinsons Calasiao reflects Robinsons Land's commitment to expand its mall chain in the region."

RLC now has seven malls in Pangasinan and one each in the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Bulacan and Cabanatuan. The company also has several residential developments in Pangasinan.

Go said RLC chose Calasiao for its first mall in Pangasinan because the first-class municipality is strategically located between Dagupan City and San Carlos City. Connected via a major highway, Calasiao is 15 minutes from Dagupan and 25 minutes from San Carlos City.

"Similar to our 20 Robinsons malls recently opened in General Santos and Dumaguete cities, Robinsons Calasiao is a full service mall and will have anchor stores and other retail stores to serve the needs of local residents as well as those in nearby towns and provinces," the company said in a statement.

Anchor tenants of the mall will be Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Appliances, Handyman and Mercury Drug, which will open four clinics with a total capacity of over 1,000 seats plus spaces for the disabled.

Also expected to open outlets in the mall is a bookstore, an assortment of apparel and footwear stores, sit down fast food restaurants, specialty outlets, an amusement center, service outlets and food stores. – Paolo G. Montecillo

Petroenergy extends offer period

By Amy R. Borres

PUBLICLY LISTED PETROENERGY Resources Corp. has extended by another trading day its stock rights offering in view of the declaration of June 30 as a special nonworking holiday.

In an update posted on the Philippine Stock Exchange website, Petroenergy said the rights offering, by which it planned to raise P684.6 million, would be conducted from June 28 to July 9 from the previously scheduled July 8.

"This is to fulfill the company's commitment to the shareholders of PERC to offer the rights shares for a minimum period of five trading days and to comply with the requirements of the embargo," the company yesterday said.

Shares are expected to be listed on July 12.

Petroenergy plans to list additional 338,912,130 common shares, to cover its 1:1 stock rights offering to all shareholders of record as of June 17. The shares will be "offered to entitled shareholders at a ratio of one new common share for every one common share held as of record date" at P5 per share.

BCBC Capital Corp. will act as the lead manager and bond underwriter of the rights offering.

Petroenergy earlier said proceeds from the planned rights offering would be infused in Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI), the joint venture company it had formed with Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. and PHOC Renewables Corp.

PERC is expected to develop the 150 megawatt geothermal power project at Mt. Malolo.

As such, Petroenergy, through its wholly owned subsidiary Petro-Green Energy Corp., would have to infuse P721.25 million in PGI; Trans-Asia, P661.25 million; and PHOC PG, P112.5 million.

The newly formed geothermal company was capitalized at P1.125 billion and Petroenergy holds the controlling stake of 65 percent. Trans-Asia Oil owns 25 percent while PHOC PG has 10 percent.

Philips urges higher import levy on non-energy efficient lighting

By Abigail L. Ho

TO ENCOURAGE CONSUMERS TO shift to energy-efficient lighting technologies, Philips Lighting Philippines is asking the incoming administration to charge higher taxes on imports of non-energy efficient lighting technologies.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, Philips Lighting general manager Eloi Gonzales said one way to encourage the conversion to energy-efficient lighting is to make non-energy-efficient products more expensive.

"According to industry data, the conversion rate [to energy-efficient lighting] is around 80 percent, but we believe it may be lower. Please avoid us doing now is trying to create awareness by educating consumers," he said.

To further accelerate conversion, he said Philips and the Philippine Lighting Industry Association, of which the company was a member, would engage the incoming heads of the Department of Energy and the Department of Trade and Industry in talks concerning conversion to energy-efficient lighting.

Based on Philips' own sales figures, he related that consumers seemed to be moving toward conversion, with the decline in sales of the company's incandescent lamps keeping in step with the increase in sales of its energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFL).

There was likewise a move toward the use of electronic ballasts, or ballasts that used less energy and poured less risk of fires, he said.

"On the part of Philips, we've been growing at a high double digit rate, close to triple digit. It's an indication that more and more consumers and industries are starting to convert to electronic ballasts[,]" he said. "At the rate things are going, we believe there is a 75 percent room for conversion to electronic ballasts."

Another way to encourage the use of energy-efficient lighting products was to institute a specific fund that firms could tap into to convert their facilities' lighting to energy-efficient ones.

BSP urged to tighten SDA facility

By Michelle V. Ramos

PLACEMENTS IN THE CENTRAL BANK'S special deposit account facility have exceeded the P600 billion mark, prompting fresh calls for monetary authorities to allow some of that money to get into the financial system and fuel the economy's robust growth.

Citing data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, economist Victor Abola said deposits in the SDA facility breached around P605 billion, the urged the BSP to reduce the interest rate on SDAs, which stood at 4 percent, and encourage banks to lend more of their funds instead of parking their money with the central bank.

Abola, economics professor from the University of Asia and the Pacific, said letting more funds out into the system would allow the Philippines to sustain the rate growth it posted in the first quarter.

"SDA rates should be cut so that investment demand would be better served," Abola said.

The SDA facility is one of the tools used by the central bank to control supply of money in the economy.

Meanwhile, Francisco Sebastian, president of First Metro Investment Corp., said in a press conference the other day that the Philippines should already target a growth rate of at least 8 percent.

He said the first quarter growth proved that the Philippines could grow much faster than the usual rate of between 4 to 5 percent as seen in previous years.

"We need more investments," Sebastian said, adding that support mechanisms should also be established.

Abola said money lying idle in the central bank's SDA facility would be useful in attaining a GDP growth target next year.

The BSP earlier reported that as of end-March, placements in the SDA facility stood at P592.2 billion, up by a hefty P215.6 billion from only P376.6 billion in the same period last year.

But the central bank has shrugged off calls for a reduction in the SDA rate.

According to BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo, there is already ample supply of money in the economy—reason why the money supply grew substantially in the first quarter.

Inflation rate liability could trigger hate than desired inflation, Guinigundo added.

The BSP is trying to limit inflation this year to within a range of 3.5 to 5.5 percent. For next year, the inflation target is between 3 and 5 percent.

So far, central bank estimates show that the increase in consumer prices will likely average at 4.7 percent this year and 3.9 percent next year, Guinigundo said.

Agri execs work to attain FMD-free certification

By Rizz T. Dichaves

THE PHILIPPINES IS WORKING TO obtain international recognition as a country free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), according to agriculture officials.

There is only one hole left in the country's pre-requisites: the 11 low-risk provinces, mostly in Zone 2 covers Central Luzon except the province of Aurora, Calabarzon, the National Capital Region and the provinces of Pangasinan in Ilocos Norte.

This is because many backyard hog farmers in these provinces have recently stopped vaccinating their pigs.

Bebiano Morales, national coordinator for the government's FMD-eradication program, told reporters in a forum that the Philippines may apply with the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), or World Organization for Animal Health, for assessment of Zone 2.

The application may be filed as early as August. But most likely, the filing may be done around November or December, or just when the OIE's assessment process starts, Morales said.

If the application for Zone 2 were to be filed by November or December, certification could be obtained by May.

Bureau of Animal Industry director Elvira Navarro also expressed confidence that Zone 2 would obtain certification as planned.

Earlier this month, Isidoro Isaac, regional director of the Department of Agriculture for Central Luzon, said in a text message that the region would apply for certification by August.

"We have been FMD-free in Region 3 for three years," Isaac said.

The two other zones in Luzon were declared FMD-free without vaccination in May 2010. Mindanao was already certified as such in 2001 and Visayas, Palawan and Bicol are granted certification in 2002.

The Philippines is hunting for FMD-free status to enable it to export fresh meat to countries that can start long-anticipated exports of meat products to its neighbors in Asia. Japan, in particular, is interested in meat products to be shipped from Mindanao.

To facilitate the Philippines' application for an FMD-free declaration by the OIE, the BAI recently divided Luzon into three zones.

Officials said that for foot-and-a-half years now, the Philippines had not had an FMD outbreak among the estimated 13 million heads of hogs in the country.

RP budget deficit swells to over P162B

From page B1

The BIR raised it P2.6 billion, short by about a quarter from last year's P13 billion.

Other offices yielded P4 billion, almost

SE Asia banks . . .

From page B1

country's banking sector will remain profitable this year even with renewed jitters among investors due to the debt crisis in Europe.

Optimism over the domestic economy has been bolstered by the robust 7.3 percent growth in the first quarter, central bank officials said. As such, demand for loans and other bank services in the country is expected to be substantial.

The BSP earlier reported that combined resources of universal and commercial banks (UKBs) and thrift banks and banks in the country stood at P6.42 trillion—up 9.5 percent from P5.86 trillion a year ago.

Regulators said the increase in bank resources was supported by a rise in profit, mainly from lending activities, and deposits from the public.

Meanwhile, NPL ratio of universal and commercial banks in the Philippines stood at 3.4 percent as of end-April. This marked an improvement from the 3.61 percent posted in the same period last year.

The BSP said banks' NPL ratio...the share of soured loans to total outstanding lending...already reflected the levels seen prior to the Asian financial crisis in early 2000s, the average NPL ratio of the industry hit as much as 18 percent due to the ill-effects of the 1997 financial turmoil in Southeast Asia.

The stable outlook on the region's banking sector is partly anchored on the healthy economic performances of the countries involved and of the financial positions of their governments, Moody's said.

"Sovereign credit breakaways risk in the region have withstood the global meltdown of the past two years," said Tom Byrne, senior vice president and regional credit officer for Moody's sovereign risk group.

"External positions are stronger now, reflecting a robust rebound in exports and resulting in record levels of official foreign exchange reserves for most countries in recent months."

The Philippines' foreign exchange reserves hit a new record of $47.05 billion as of end-May 2010. The increased liquidity of the Philippines allows banks to easily undertake foreign exchange borrowings to meet their foreign obligations.

Officials credited the increased growth in remittances and rising inflows of foreign portfolio and direct investments for the increase in gross international reserves, which stood at $50.55 billion in May.

Shares succumb to profit-taking

From page B1

Analysts say Philippine stock's buoyancy is dependent on fiscal prudence, which is expected to result in a more balanced world economy, should help improve local economic prospects.

Gov't raised P8.5B from T-bond auction

From page B1

count for P1.7 billion in Treasury bills and P9.865 billion in T-bonds.

Also, last until results of yesterday's auction were better than expected, considering that the overall average rate prevailing in the secondary market was 7.34 percent.

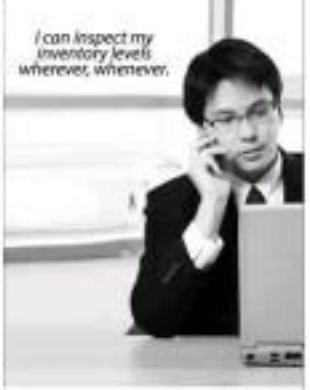
Last week, the Cabinet-level Development Budget Coordination Committee announced it would revise upward the 2010 gross domestic product growth target to range between 6.5 percent and 6.6 percent.

The DBCC said the change in target was due to the 7.3-percent growth posted in the three months to March—the highest first-quarter growth recorded in three decades.

According to Finance Undersecretary Gil S. Beltran, the GDP is now expected to grow to P8.335 trillion to current prices this year.

Based on the previous target of between 6.5 percent to 6.6 percent, the economic output's dollar was supposed to range between P8.317 trillion and P8.487 trillion.

Romeo W. Bautista



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BUSINESS

Stronger yuan seen to benefit RP exporters

By Michelle V. Ibarra

THE UNITED STATES MAY BE THE one making all the noise to pressure China to allow the yuan to appreciate, but even the Philippines and other Asian countries will largely benefit from such a move especially in terms of higher export earnings.

Myrna Alexia, economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific, said China accounted for about 11 percent of Philippine exports. He said Filipino electronics manufacturers and their suppliers would benefit the most from a stronger yuan.

"For (Philippines') supply alone 60 percent of China's demand for is... semi," he said, adding that the export receipts from the shipments of... and other... and electronic products to China will increase with the yuan appreciation.

Alexia also said appreciation of the renminbi make goods from the Philippines and other Asian exporters more competitive in major markets in the West as are the products from China. The... demand for Philippine-made goods in western countries may also rise.

In the first four months of the year, Philippine exports reached $14.9 billion, rising by a hefty 38.9 percent from $10.73 billion in the same period a year ago.

The robust increase in exports in January to April was attributed to the global economic recovery from the recession last year.

Economists said the recovery had brought back consumers appetite for electronics goods, the Philippines' major export product.

Alexia said the export picture might even be better once the yuan was allowed to appreciate.

On Saturday, People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan was quoted as saying that the yuan, which is pegged at around 6.83 against the US dollar, will eventually become more flexible.

The statement came after mounting pressure from the United States for the Chinese government to allow the yuan to appreciate, saying the worldwide low cost of the currency had been contributing to the financial and economic woes in the US and even the global economy.

Some legislators in the United States want the US government to officially brand China as "currency manipulator" so that a case may be filed with the World Trade Organization and so that imported goods from China may be slapped much higher tariffs.

Gov't to hold auction for more sugar imports

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO HOLD... cut rights to import the country's additional sugar requirement equivalent to 100,000 tons.

This will be on top of the... granted importation of 150,000 tons which was completed recently.

Sugar Regulatory Administration chief Bernardo Tinio said the agency would allocate a substantial portion of the additional volume to the retail sector, although it would look up the volume reserved for it in the import decree of the first 150,000 tons of sugar for 2010.

"We had to hold three auctions (for the import decree of 150,000 tons) until finally we had to unallocate the remaining volumes," he said.

Nevertheless, the SRA is considering allocating to retailers 20,000 to 30,000 tons of the additional volume. This is meant to help keep the retail price of sugar stable.

The Philippines was a net exporter of sugar for eight years until it turned to imports only this year as dry spells resulted in lower sugarcane production amid an already-tight world market.

In a statement, the SRA said sugar production estimates by crop year 2009-2010 dropped.

Initial estimates showed production could reach about 2.18 million tons but because of the drought due to El Niño, actual output may hit only 1.97 million tons.

Compounding the situation is a 22-percent increase in consumption from last year, which is bolstered by the amount of withdrawals of local sugar from mills, SRA said.

The Philippine Sugar Millers Association (PSMA), the industry group that works closely with the SRA, said it had yet to be decided whether to import raw or refined sugar. The proposed delivery date is on or before Aug. 31, 2010 (before the next crop year or cycle of sugarcane planting and milling).

Shortages have already... of the... ready and will be released soon, the SRA said.

Earlier this week, Tinio said sugar prices should remain stable in coming weeks as more imports boost local... warehouse stocks before the lean months of August and September.

Soreco II license to operate power plant renewed

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION has allowed Sorsogon II Electric Cooperative Inc. (Soreco II) to continue operating its 440-kilowatt mini hydroelectric power plant in Sorsogon.

According to the ERC, it assessed the company's certificate of compliance (COC) after finding it compliant to technical, financial and environmental standards that are specified in the ERC guidelines.

"Soreco II was also found to have stayed within the market share and cross-ownership limitations prescribed in the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to prevent monopolistic abuse. The renewed COC of Soreco II is valid for another five years," the ERC said.

Soreco II does not operate other facilities than the hydroelectric power plant, which has a total installed capacity of 440 kilowatts, supplying 0.064 percent of the total electricity of the Luzon grid. The load for the grid has been set at 30 percent. It has 0.003 percent of the national market share, where the limit is set at 25 percent.

The hydroelectric facility was originally owned by state-run National Power Corp. (NPC) and was bought by the distribution utility in July 2008 from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

It is a run-of-river plant that relies on the Cawayan River. Its generated electricity goes through the rural electric cooperative's 13.2-kilovolt distribution system for sharing to its customers.

"The ERC is pleased to know that Soreco II has been able to maintain (the plant's) good working condition. It first started commercial operation in 1999 and has been using the renewable and non-polluting forces of the Cawayan River since then," said ERC chair and CEO Zenaida T. Cruz-Angeles.

Artie R. Dykoy

BUSINESS

2nd of 2

Napocor defends planned reorganization

By Jerry E. Esplanada

EDITED BY: NATIONAL POWER CORP. yesterday maintained that its planned reorganization, which would result in the laying off of more than 300 employees, was within the bounds of the law.

Napocor spokesperson Dennis U. Gana told reporters that the reorganization would be undertaken in accordance with pertinent provisions as provided for by Republic Act (RA) 6656 and RA 9136.

Gana said RA 6656, also known as the Act to Protect the Security of Tenure of Civil Service Officers and Employees in the Implementation of Government Reorganization," was aimed at providing processes that would ensure that the reorganization would take place as smoothly as possible, without violating any of the employee's rights and privileges.

At the moment, RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) provides the parameters for the reorganization.

Napocor plans to lay off more than 300 employees at the head office, following the sale of some 90 percent of the government's power generation assets and more than 600 persons of the independent power producer administrators contract to the private sector.

"More than anybody else, it is the Napocor employees who understand the need for such a reorganization. With its mandate reformed on missionary electrification and unneeded contingencies, it is important for the corporation to maintain an optimal workforce. But still, we almost 75 years of existence, we still hold the distinction of being a market leader, and there is still so much that we can offer the industry," Gana said.

Gana said the proposed reorganization had yet to be approved by the incumbent board.

"However, the present Napocor board can opt not to act on it, and instead leave the decision to the incoming board just as what is being done in other government agencies on pending issues," Gana said.

He added that if the existing board chose to approve the proposed reorganization, this would still be subject to the scrutiny and approval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

"It is not a simple task. These processes every are up to ensure the continuous provision and delivery of service of the agency undergoing reorganization, and that the rights and privileges of employees concerned are protected," Gana explained.

Companies urge better plan for carbon credits

By Jerry E. Esplanada

LOCAL COMPANIES HAVE URGED THE government to put in place a better way of providing mechanisms and incentives to encourage energy efficiency among firms.

Edgar Chua, country chair of the Shell group of companies in the Philippines, pointed out that it is important for the country to be able to price carbon credits in a more efficient way so as to encourage firms to reduce or offset their emissions.

Chua cited as an example First Gen Corp., whose power generation portfolio is largely comprised of renewable-energy sources.

"Like First Gen. They're semi- geothermal. They're into hydro. If there is a right carbon pricing, I think that will provide additional incentive for [other companies] to go into renewable energy as well," he pointed out.

First Gen vice president Al Santos agreed, pointing out that there are a number of projects being conducted—but mainly by multilateral agencies—that are geared toward energy efficiency.

He cited as an example the World Bank's chiller replacement project where old chillers are replaced with new and better models that would help reduce energy consumption. He likewise cited the existence of energy service companies that would help retrofit buildings to make them more energy-efficient.

Shell and First Gen are among the companies joining the European Chamber of Commerce in the drive toward urging businesses and key decision makers to implement energy efficient programs.

Asian controls on hot money seen

But credit flows to continue

HONG KONG—ASIAN CENTRAL banks are expected to follow Indonesia's move to curb the inflow of money spurred by funds that could destabilize markets, JP Morgan Asset Management's head of Asian fixed income Stephen Chang said on Thursday.

Bank Indonesia on Wednesday adopted measures aimed at shifting funds to longer-term bonds and discouraging short-term investments, including requiring investors to hold any central bank debt for at least a month.

Indonesia's move came a few days after South Korea's central bank adopted tighter currency controls aimed at curbing fluctuations in local currency.

The influx of offshore funds which poured into Indonesian bonds helped the regional gain 2.8 percent versus the US dollar this year, the second best performer next to the Malaysian ringgit, which has risen 4.4 percent.

While the strong rupiah has helped put a lid on imported inflation, a sudden reversal in the inflows could disrupt Indonesia's financial markets, weaken the currency and trigger asset-fund withdrawals.

"This is the broader theme in Asia," Chang, who helps manage $6.7 billion in Asian fixed income, told Reuters in an interview.

"They either have to let the currency appreciate or impose something reasonably moderate that will not discourage foreign direct investments or even trigger any kind of outflows," JPMorgan has been upbeat on Indonesian sovereign bonds and some corporate issues, he said, not only for their high returns but also because of the country's economic fundamentals that are fueling hopes that its credit rating will be upgraded to investment grade in the next two to three years.

"I don't think inflows [into Asian credits] will stop because the reasons for inflows are there. If anything, we think it's longer term positive," Chang said.

Indonesian sovereign dollar and local currency bonds gained on Thursday as investors cheered the central bank's measures.

Chang said he also liked China property bonds, which have fallen in recent months as Beijing moved to curb fast-rising real estate prices and sovereign issues from the Philippines.

China property bonds "have overpriced and providing better risk reward at this juncture," Chang said, adding that the government's tightening measures on the property sector may be over for now.

"I'm a very selective basis, we are starting to look at it," Chang said.

Reuters

CHINESE currency 100 Yuan notes are counted in Beijing, after the central bank took its first step toward letting its currency trade more freely against the dollar by ending a six-year yuan trading rate —

Yuan slips as state banks buy dollars

SEOUL—MOST ASIAN CURRENCIES fell against the dollar on Tuesday, pressured by expectations that China will allow the yuan to appreciate only gradually and on caution over possible curbs to investments by central banks.

The yuan slid as big state-owned banks heavily bought dollars, suggesting the central bank will control the pace of the currency's gains after allowing it to surge nearly 4% percent on Monday.

The won also came under pressure from investors that South Korea's financial authorities might tighten currency regulations.

Still, Asian currencies are unlikely to weaken further as China is seen eventually allowing more flexibility in the yuan, and given strong economic fundamentals of the region, analysts said.

"The panic and the direction of dollar sales will be the thing for the time being, but they will maintain a firm tone," said Jens Nyang'a, a currency analyst at Samsung Futures in Seoul.

The won fell 0.82 percent as the yuan retreated and after a senior finance ministry official said that the government planned to eventually bring currency derivatives trading limits in line with lower caps set for domestic banks, though it had not been worked others.

The won ended at 1,185.7 per dollar, compared with its previous domestic close of 1,175.0.

Earlier, the unit fell as low as 1,189.0 before recovering to 1,179.4 after Beijing set the mid-point for the yuan's daily trading range at a 5-year high.

But weakness set in after the spot yuan rate retreated.

"Investors are focusing only on the yuan, ignoring most other factors," said a local bank dealer.

Seoul shares closed down 0.47 percent with foreign investors selling a net 33.3 billion won worth of stocks on the main exchange.

Taiwan ended Asian peers lower, weighed down by profit-taking on sharp gains in Asian markets on Monday.

The baht's immediate outlook remains firm, supported by a bullish yuan, traders said.

"The market is quite volatile today with the yuan setting the pace," a Bangkok-based trader said.

Earlier, baht was bid at 32.32, down 0.13 percent from 32.27 late on Monday.

The yuan jumped initially after the People's Bank of China set the mid-point user to make as a surprisingly strong 6.7981, little changed from Monday's close and catching market players off guard who had thought it would try to nudge the currency lower after the previous day's surge.

A barrage of dollar buying by state banks quickly drove the yuan from 6.7900 to 6.8219, a drop of 0.37 percent on the day.

Some traders believe this buying by state banks was on behalf of the PBOC to avoid direct market intervention, as it had often done in the post-revaluation appreciation phase and in their dollar peg of the past two years.

Reuters

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City

M.C. No. 11, s. 2010

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO: ALL HEADS OF CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES, DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT; LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS; GOVERNMENT OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS; LOCAL AND STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

SUBJECT: Advisory for Incoming Elective and Appointive Officials on the Exercise of Personnel Actions (i.e., Promotion, Demotion, Reassignment, Transfer, Detail, Secondment, Job Rotation, Designation, etc.)

The 1987 Constitution provides that "no officer or employee of the civil service shall be removed or suspended except for cause provided by law." (Section 2, Article IX-B). This right was guaranteed that State workers shall also be entitled of their right ... (security of tenure). (Section 3, Article XIII)

Under Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987), it is a declared policy of the State to insure and promote the Constitutional mandate that appointments in the Civil Service shall be made only according to merit and fitness, that the Civil Service Commission, as the central personnel agency of the Government shall ... adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, and making in the civil service ... and institutionalize a management climate conducive to public accountability. ("Section 1, Title I-A, Book V)

In view thereof, the Civil Service Commission advises all incoming elective and appointive officials to respect the constitutional right to security of tenure of career service officials and employees with valid appointments.

In the exercise of personnel actions such as promotion, demotion, reassignment, transfer, detail, secondment, job rotation, designation, etc., the CSC reminds all incoming elective and appointive officials to observe the prevailing Civil Service laws, rules, and regulations.

As the nation celebrates the triumph of democracy, the CSC reminds all incoming elective and appointive officials and employees to put premium on public service and orderliness and for the general welfare of the country.

June 15, 2010
PRF. JOSE LUIS MARTIN C. GASCON

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Chairman

Report says young Chinese workers more demanding

BEIJING—YOUNGER MIGRANTS NOW make up the majority of China's migrant labor force and are quicker to speak up when they feel their rights are being violated than older workers, according to a report by the country's official trade union that hints at a reason for the recent wave of labor unrest.

The report by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions comes in the wake of high profile strikes at plants run by foreign manufacturers including Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. It did not mention the unrest but did refer to worries about social instability.

Young migrant workers between the ages of 16 and 30 number about 100 million, making up more than 60% of China's estimated 150 million migrant laborers and nearly half of the country's 230 million workers overall, said the study. It was posted on the federation's website Monday and reported in the Chinese media Tuesday.

The study was conducted in 10 cities from March to May, though the report didn't say how many workers had been interviewed.

The average younger migrant worker was aged 23, had finished middle school education, and 80 percent were unmarried, it said.

It characterized the younger generation—known as the "post-80s generation"—as more willing to file complaints when their rights are violated than on behalf of established than the older generation.

The study noted that younger migrant workers "are more aware of equality and rights," and have higher expectations of getting equal jobs, labor and social welfare, education, and other basic public services.

It said they are "becoming a higher-selling" area of defending their rights." According to the surveys taken by the national union, only 6.3 percent of the younger workers said a fear of retaliation would prevent them from filing complaints, compared with 13 percent of their older counterparts.

The report said resolving the problems facing the new generation of migrant workers was important to avoid social unrest. AP

SoKor mulls tougher FX derivatives caps

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA ON TUESDAY flagged a plan to tweak currency trading rules unveiled just over a week ago and tighten limits imposed on foreign banks, smarting currency and bond markets with a sudden policy flip-flop.

A senior finance ministry official said that the government planned to eventually bring the limits in line with lower caps set for domestic banks, though it had not been decided when.

However, another official told Reuters later identical limits for local and foreign banks might be still years away.

On June 13, the authorities announced curbs on banks' trading of currency derivatives, saying they aimed to prevent sharp capital swings that have repeatedly plagued South Korea at times of market imbalance.

The rules, expected to come into force in October, set a ceiling of 50 percent of equity capital for currency derivatives positions of domestic banks and a 250 percent cap for foreign bank branches to account for their typically much lower capital.

On average, equity capital of foreign bank branches represents just 1/30 of that of domestic banks and market analysts had said that setting the same limits on local and foreign banks would effectively shut out the latter from the currency forwards market where they are the dominant players.

"The government's basic stance is that we should not discriminate against domestic banks in relation to foreign bank branches," Kim Ik-jin, head of the finance ministry's international finance bureau, told Reuters.

Another official involved in drafting and implementing the currency regulations, played down the likelihood of changes to the rulebook any time soon, though officials said the long-term goal was to have the same standards for local and foreign banks.

"The government can do that in the long term, probably five-or-10 years. It is hard to do that in the short term," said the official, who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

Reuters

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- PROJECT AND GOVERNMENT APPROVALS OFFICER
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- BUSINESS ANALYSIS AND PAYROLL SUPERVISOR (10 years experience)
- SECURITY SUPERVISORS (10 years experience)
- HR SUPERINTENDENT (15 years experience)
- HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR (10 years experience)
- RECRUITMENT OFFICER (3 years experience)
- HEALTH OFFICER (Qualified Nurse)
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Interested qualified applicants are invited to visit www.smi.com.ph for details and apply online or email resume and application letter to humanresources@smi.com.ph

BUSINESS

Britons brace for emergency budget

Toughest measures since World War II

LONDON—AFTER DIRE WARNINGS, Britons will find out today how much pain they have to bear in the government's plans to cut the oversized deficit, which has soared amid the global lending crisis.

Prime Minister David Cameron, leading a coalition government formed just last month, has warned that the emergency budget will contain some of the hardest measures since World War II.

"We have inherited a truly awful financial situation ... and unless we take the determined and concerted action to deal with that then I am afraid we will find our country on the road to ruin," Treasury chief George Osborne said on Sunday.

"Mr. will find higher interest rates, businesses going bust, unemployment rising and our living standards declining. I am not prepared to put up with that," he said in a BBC interview.

The previous Labor Party government under Gordon Brown pumped billions in to keeping the economy afloat as Britain endured a deep 18-month recession.

Debt has risen above 900 billion pounds ($1.3 trillion), or 62 percent of gross domestic output, unemployment is 7.9 percent and inflation remains stubbornly high at 3.4 percent.

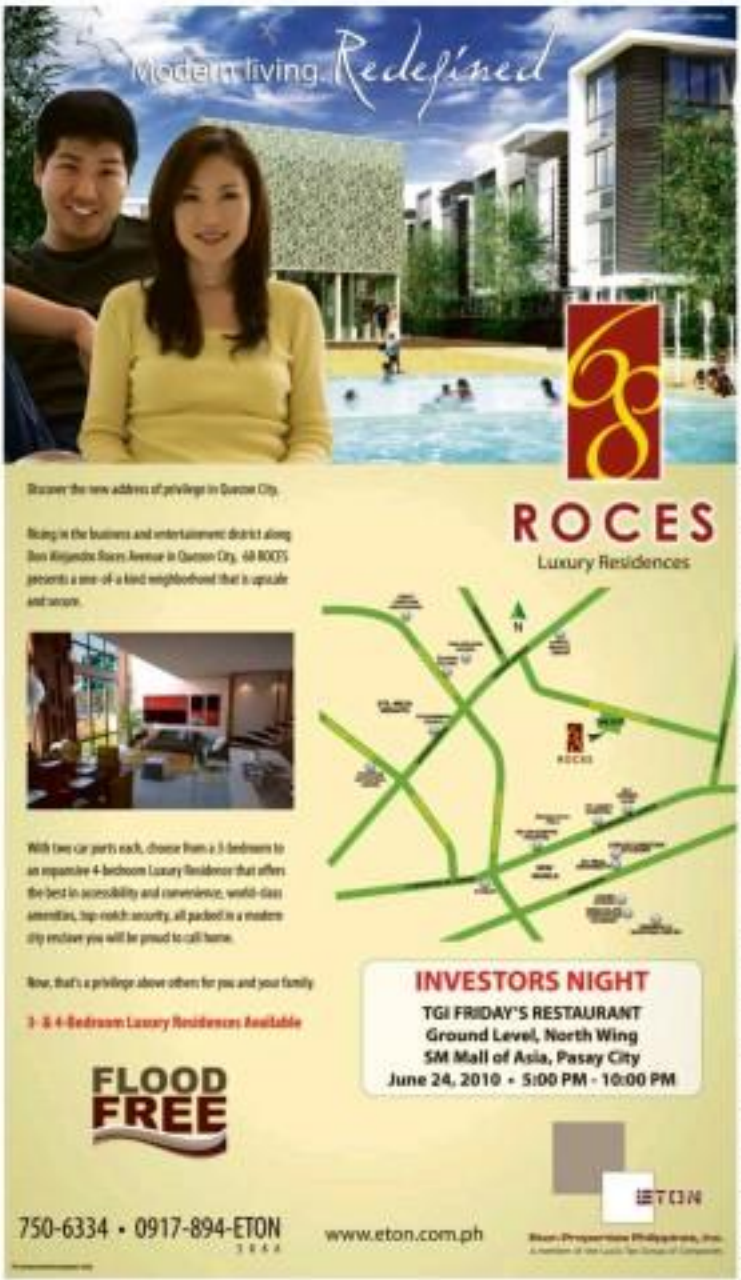
The new Office for Budget Responsibility earlier this month downgraded the economic forecast to 2.6 percent growth in 2011, compared to the 3.25 percent estimate the previous government of Brown in March.

The deficit is currently at 10.4 percent of GDP, and the European Union has warned that it is likely to rise to 12 percent this year. Debt is expected to reach 88 percent of GDP by 2011-12 2012, overtaking the EU average.

Against this backdrop, the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition has abandoned the previous government's pump-priming approach to emphasize spending cuts. Cameron's team talks about a cut of 80 percent spending cuts and 20 percent tax increases.

"We aren't arguing about whether you get the deficit down, what they are arguing about is a politics that go further and faster, more that appear to be driven by an ideological war against the public sector," said Alistair Darling, who served as Treasury chief in the previous government.

AP



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Yuan-driven oil rally fizzles out

SINGAPORE—OIL FELL AS MUCH AS 1.1 percent on before $77 on Tuesday on speculation that a gradual appreciation of the yuan would have a limited impact on China's petroleum imports in the short term.

The yuan was weakened by as much as 0.5 percent on Tuesday after big Chinese state-owned banks aggressively bought dollars. It had earlier strengthened after the central bank set the currency's daily midpoint at the highest level against the dollar since a revaluation in July 2005.

The July contract for US crude, which expires at the end of Tuesday's trading session, fell as much as 85 cents to $76.97 a barrel, erasing Monday's gain, and was down 78 cents at $77.06. It briefly turned positive when the People's Bank of China strengthened Tuesday's yuan mid-point.

"Perhaps the market overreacted a bit over the short term," said Wajat Su, a Singapore-based commodities analyst with Barclays Capital.

The more active August contract for US crude, which will become the front month from Wednesday, shed 61 cents to $77.00, abrogating off expectations for a drop to US crude inventories and fanning Asian stock markets fears. The Nikkei dipped 1.1 percent on profit-taking on Tuesday after hovering to a one-month high the day before.

"It's a positive boost to sentiment following a period of severe risk aversion that has been hitting risky assets including oil, but in terms of the impact on Chinese commodities demand, it's more ambiguous," Fu said.

Front-month US crude crashed on Monday to 1-1/2-week high near $79 a barrel on Monday, but ended back as fears indicated softened economic

Reuters

Asia stocks down on Europe woes

SINGAPORE—ASIAN STOCK MARKETS mostly fell Tuesday as renewed concern about Europe's debt crisis overshadowed the initial enthusiasm over China's decision to let its currency rise.

Investor sentiment was undermined after Fitch downgraded its debt rating on BNP Paribas SA, the largest bank in the eurozone by deposits—by one notch Monday, crushing worries that Europe's sovereign debt measures will slow growth and undermine the financial system. Fitch slashed BNP's long-term rating to AA- minus from AA on deteriorating asset quality.

A fall on Wall Street overnight also dampened the mood in Asia. The Dow Jones Industrial average gave up earlier gains that were triggered by China's move to loosen the yuan's two-year old peg to the dollar.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index lost 137.79 points, or 1.2 percent, to 10,139.39 and South Korea's Kospi fell 0.7 percent to 1,727.93. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was down 1.1 percent to 4,503.60.

Elsewhere, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 0.1 percent to 20,008.04 and the Shanghai Composite Index added 0.2 percent to 2,592.04. Markets in Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and India all fell.

Analysts, meanwhile, were divided over whether China will allow significant appreciation of the yuan—which would give other exporting nations a competitive edge over China.

Some expect China to allow only the yuan to strengthen slightly, fearing any significant impact on economic growth.

"The appreciation is likely to be small, perhaps just a few percent over the remainder of the year," Capital Economics said in a report. "These now expecting a large appreciation against the dollar, and for that to boost the global economy and ease trade tensions, will ultimately be disappointed."

Other analysts still expect a stronger yuan to spark Chinese consumer demand and boost company earnings.

AP

MOTORING

Editor Jong R. Arcano

CONCEPT ONE

Protecting pedestrians

By Tessa R. Salazar

As 22 million kids walk to school every day, advocates continue crusade for safer roads

PATRICIA "PIA" N. BEJER, 9, a Grade 5 student at Tarlac Elementary School in Barangay Tarlac, says he's more afraid of the walk to school than the school itself. He thinks the drivers of the cars won't see him as he crosses the street.

Pia's classmate Lady Ann Borrella, 10, shares the same fear. "Baka hindi nila kami makita (The drivers might not see us)," she says.

Pia and Lady Ann, along with 30 other children, attended the June 18 National Safe Kids Week celebration in Quezon City Memorial Circle where The Walk This Way Road Safety Park (an interactive of Safe Kids Philippines and Goodrx Tata Profit) was set up.

The children participated in games, simulations and interactive activities aimed to help prevent accidents and injuries on the road in a manner that the children would best understand.

Dr. Rafael Consunji, neurosurgeon at the Philippine General Hospital and the President of Safe Kids Philippines, revealed to Inquirer Motoring that unlike adults, most children tend to suffer multiple injuries when they get involved in vehicular accidents because of their smaller body masses.

He added that in the Philippines, 100,000 children 14 and under are injured or die on the roads every year. Of these, 70 percent are pedestrians. Around 4,000 die every year, he stressed.

The greatest risk for a child pedestrian injury or death is from 5 to 9 years of age.

PHILSTAR G.I.S.

What you should know about the MMDA and coding

LIKE MANY OTHER MOtorists, I was often confused by "color coding," a.k.a. number coding. Which of the 17 cities and municipalities of Metro Manila endorse coding, the rule that bans motor vehicles whose license plates's ending numbers coincides with a certain day of the week ever? Which cities do not?

For those from another planet or who have been hiding under a rock, coding means that if your car's last plate number is 1 or 2, you can't use that car on Mondays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., if it's 3 or 4, Tuesday is your no-no day; 5 or 6 bans your car on Wednesdays; 7 or 8 means don't drive your car on Thursdays and 9 or 0 means you can't use it on Fridays (unless you have another car with a different last plate number). Violators of coding schemes (on 24 apprehensions by traffic police in Metro Manila Development Authority [MMDA] officers and aides).

What stirs the confusion is that certain cities and towns of Metro Manila do not honor the "window hours" between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. when coding is suspended. Pasay and Antipolo (among those in the Republic of Makati) are the cities and municipalities of Metro Manila whose mayors were Vice-Presidents when Joseph Ejercito Estrada initiated the coding scheme (when he was MMDA chairman).

Now and then, the manner of Metro Aides' issues that also do not honor the window hours suddenly allows it without informing the motoring public. Or issues and stops that need to have the window silently ensures if, unbeknownst to the motorists, they are not allowed to gather together or even travel together in groups of two or more in order to apprehend, except for special operations such as apprehending groups of buses for tardiness.

ON THE ROAD

Aisha Sevilla-Mendoza

GIVING OUT A TRAFFIC VIOLATION. Moving out lane to the left or right is not everyone and a not a violation, much less if you do so with a turn signal. Swerving is defined as erratic lane changes that can result in accidents.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. Police officers are not allowed to gather together or even travel together in groups of two or more in order to apprehend, except for special operations such to apprehending groups of buses for tardiness.

Awards galore for Legacy

THE 2018 SUBARU LEGACY IS RE-garded as the most awarded car in the market with the numerous awards and recognitions it has received all over the world. In a little over seven months after its introduction, the Legacy has already received top awards from the International Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), the European, Japanese and Australasian New Car Assessment Program (Euro NCAP, JNCAP and ANCAP) for having the best performance in safety. It has also been recently recognized as the "Top Pilipinas" Car of the Year by the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi).

The IIHS, Euro NCAP, JNCAP and ANCAP provide consumers with the latest safety information on tested vehicles in their respective regions. Crash testing scores are evidence that the new Legacy lives up to Subaru's impressive safety designs and engineering, which include ring reinforcement safety system, front, semi-mounted side and side curtain airbags and ABS.

Aside from top safety awards, the redesigned 2018 Subaru Legacy raised Subaru's overall standing in five all-around websites for 2018 as published by Consumer Reports Magazine. Evaluations included fit-n-finishing interior fit and finish, comfort, safety and overall build quality. Despite having slimmer all-around scores, improved their standing in the recent test, Subaru garnered highest awards for having the best balance in each category.

Likewise, the 2018 Subaru Legacy received Cagi's Car of the Year award, while leaving with its respective category as 10th Size Car of the Year and Speedlab's Tuner's Choice Award.

"It is a truly remarkable feat for the Legacy to have won numerous awards from around the globe. This is just a testimony to Subaru's commitment to class leading quality, and we are extremely delighted that our products and services continue to satisfy the needs of our customers," states Hideo Mariano, general manager of Motor Image Philippines.

Motor Image Philippines, the exclusive distributor of Subaru has expanded with the opening of its first dealership outside Metro Manila, located at the automotive strip of A.S. Fortuna St. in Mandaue City, the new Subaru dealership is set to offer the same high quality sales and service for clients in the Visayas.

ORIGINAL LEATHER

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Father's Day thoughts

LAST SUNDAY WAS Father's Day. I hope my dad is thankful, getting the little cares. Some of the freedom childhood memories. I have vivid with my dad driving the family car, a Ford Telstar and a Mitsubishi Box-type. Luxury back in the day. He'd tease everyone he'll be going on trips but he loved us. Drive fast. Mom would scream dad, who in turn would be re-orienting [illegible] to 130-150km/h, while my brother and I would be giggling with delight in the backseat as we felt the g-force pushing us back.

SKID MARKS

Ricardo Sanchez

Another fond memory was when dad finally got to save up to buy a Mori, a 90's 2-Cline Estate, finished in what sounded like olive drab. He loved cleaning the Silver himself as it sometimes "help" him by splashing water everywhere, making his task harder. I'd also sit inside while he'd wash the car on his own work bumper. I'd imagined I was driving as fast as he would, or even faster like a race car driver. On one occasion, I accidentally pulled the e-brake lever and my dad's beloved Mori started rolling down the front garage driveway and almost slammed into the gate, much to my dad's horror. Good thing the transmission was in PARK, otherwise, we'd be gondola, my dad's Mori without a rear bumper and "up-bonking the [illegible] he would be, until, tender, juicy and looking red.

I remember this because my dad tried so hard not to lose his temper and punish me. He just cooled off somewhere for a few minutes and promptly forgot about it.

Nowadays, when my dad wants to talk serious stuff, the business, our family or his own remaining dreams and aspirations, it's usually taboo, we're driving together. Except this time, I'm doing the driving behind the latest we-mit I have on hand.

Today, dads are so busy they forget or even don't care about their kids. Worse, if the kids are an obstacle to personal goals, fathers will blame or even punish them even if the latter have no fault. A lot of fathers think that if they shower their kids with gifts and money that qualifies them to be called dads. Sad.

Gary, and the lifestyle associated with fleet can be incompetent tool to fostering father-offspring relationships. I have some very good examples aside from my dad and my Refs Cohorts, technicians and all-around nice guy and his son JV, a very good friend of mine both enjoy Monday list, nice and much days early in the morning with other friends. Father and son are chore-lessons of this. I also applaud Top Gear's Oheng because not this dad who have started a fast road and track-day Cars project. Each wrenching on their cars, or even just cleaning the car together with their kids a great bonding time. Of course I have to mention the legendary Porsche Barreiro who with his kids Rodric, George, Louis and Miguel established a racing dynasty in both local and even regional motorsports. Even Tito Rod's daughter Michelle tried motorsports and although she didn't like it, served as a support staff for the family racing team. Fedna Escalier's kids Andre and Stefan are also real drivers, while wife Mirador also tried her hand in motorsports.

Dear Fathers, please, find any means and ways possible to get to know your kids better. Fathers and their kids never have a choice in who become their kids and their fathers. You're stuck with each other. To improve the relationship means to elevate it to a relationship of true friendship. Friends respect and accept each other flaws and complexly. No BS, no compromise, no adulterous. I'm glad my dad is my good friend, whom I can trust 24/7. Thanks in part to a common love of cars. Whenever I bring home a new test unit, my dad always chides me to take him for a spin in my "new" ride. Thanks dad, for being the best ever dad, a true friend, giving us a good life, and remembering me to cam.

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JMC

AFRAID OF FLOODS?

Authorized dealers-National Capital Region

Authorized dealers-Luzon Upcountry

Authorized dealers-VISAYAS & MINDANAO

Protecting pedestrians

From page B2-1

Concerns remain that not many drivers know that the uncommon development of children, or their neurological or brain processes, are not fully set until they are about 18 years old. Hence, many of the young victims involved in such accidents are between 10 and 15.

Of children aged 0-18 years involved in vehicular accidents and requiring admission to the PGH, 55 percent sustained multiple injuries.

In the millisecond of a vehicular accident involving a child pedestrian, injury occurs in three phases:

a) The initial impact from the vehicle, bumper, usually to the thigh/leg area depending on their height, resulting in long bone fractures;

b) The impact against the windshield of the hood and/or spray-chest, resulting in traumatic brain injury, chest trauma and arm fracture/s;

c) Finally, the fall to the ground, at a distance from the vehicle, owing to the massive amounts of energy transfer, where they can be hit by other vehicles and/or suffer trauma to other regions of the body.

Motorists pedestrians, too

With a record 22 million school children stooping to their classrooms from their homes, and vice-versa, every day, the potential for accidents to occur involving pedestrians and vehicles or its occupants, is always present. The risk is increased even more with many dangerous habits both pedestrians and motorists practice.

He adds that children who ride vehicles to and from school are also pedestrians and become vulnerable to other motorists, as they too must cross streets on the street some time or the other during the trip.

Consunji, a father of two children, suggests to motorists, as well as to caretakers, the following to make Philippine roads more pedestrian-friendly:

- Require running lights for all vehicles (headlights must be turned on, day or night) to increase vehicle visibility/conspicuity.
- Make bumper more pedestrian-friendly [to better absorb the impact in the event of an accident].
- Back-up (reverse) sensors be made standard in every vehicle.
- Ignition locks and breathalyzers must be enforced during school days to prevent drunk-driving.

VOLUNTEERS from Safe Kids Philippines giving road safety lessons. ALVIN KASIBANG

- Consulates should make safety features of their cars as standard, and not further increase in charge higher prices on these cars.
- The motoring public needs to be made more aware of the issue on pedestrian safety.

Consunji also observed that the cautionary use of new, fancy cars and young drivers could be a dangerous mix.

The Philippines, he said, is the only country in Southeast Asia which has no regulations on addled/ penalties on drunk driving, much less blood-alcohol tests.

"Did you know that each year, more than 6,500 children in the Philippines suffer injuries or even lose their lives because of accidents on the road?" remarks Samuel Oneal, Safe Kids Philippines country manager.

Precious pedestrians

Safe Kids Philippines reveals that 56 percent of 1,500 children 10-14 years visiting an emergency room for a mild or moderate injury say that while they are on the roads. Of the children injured on the roads, more 91 percent of their most injuries to pedestrians.

Of the children (0-18 years) needing admission to PGH, 55 percent sustained road traffic-related injuries (RTI). Seventy percent were pedestrians, 16 percent were motorcycle related (most among children older than 10), 11 percent were bicycle related and 3 percent were passengers.

Environmental assessments of the Safe Kids Philippines with 2,624 respondents from 46 schools in Pasay, Olongapo and Pampanga showed:

- Signage: 27 percent of school zones had no signs at all
- Driver behavior: 96 not asked to note driver behavior in school zones:
  - 68 percent driver stop at all for pedestrians
  - 40 percent drove above the speed limit
  - 42 percent did not obey at corners
  - 46 percent stopped beyond the pedestrian line
  - 36 percent used to use the red light
  - 28 percent did not look before reversing
- Enforcement:
  - speed limit signs not visible (23/100 percent)
  - traffic lights not working (26 percent)
  - speed limit enforced (13 percent)
  - police presence (15/26 percent)
  - barrier or other pedestrian assist (<10 percent)
- Environment:
  - trash and dirt (60 percent)
  - unsafe (20 percent)
  - dark, inadequate lighting (20 percent)

Antonget children (0-14 years) dying on the roads, 60-70 percent of the fatalities were as a result of being hit as pedestrians.

Consunji said that there are no data indicating that street vendors are at a higher risk for injury or deaths as child pedestrians but their continued extended presence on the road greatly increases their exposure to incoming pedestrian victims.

Pedicabs, bikes, motorcycles most common offenders

By Tess R. Salazar

WHEN IT COMES TO ROAD accidents, what are the most notorious culprits?

In surveys done in three cities (Parañaque, Pasay and Cebu), where SaSa and Safe Kids Philippines (SKP) implemented their joint Walk This Way child pedestrian safety program, up to 42 percent of grade 4 and 5 children figured in road-related accidents as pedestrians.

It was also found that the ubiquitous two and three-wheeled vehicles were the most common culprits.

Bicycles (46 percent), motorcycles (16 percent), pedicabs (12 percent) and tricycles (11 percent) were the leading causes.

It was noted that in areas surrounding schools, these vehicles were allowed to operate without enforcement, and complaints with local road rules and regulations (i.e. they were allowed to park anywhere, run counterflow and disregarded pedestrians' right-of-way at crosswalks).

Dr. Raffy Consunji, president of Safe Kids Philippines and trauma surgeon at the Philippine General Hospital, shared some factors that made children more vulnerable on the road:

- Height (at belt thereof) and poor conspicuity which can be addressed by bike mounting, brightly colored clothing or reflective vests;
- The leading factors are the absence of adequate space for pedestrians to walk safely away from vehicles (sidewalks are either nonexistent or obstructed);
- The ignorance of road laws by both pedestrians and drivers;
- Non-enforcement of rules/regulations on proper conduct of pedestrians (use of crosswalks and crossing with the green light) and drivers (respect for pedestrians, keeping pedestrians crossing free etc);
- The high prevalence of driving while impaired (under the influence of alcohol or drugs) and/or distracted (texting/using cellphone while driving, etc).

Not the worst

On a brighter note, Consunji said that the country's pedestrian safety records are not the worst in the world. "In Asia, we are probably only safer for child pedestrians than Myanmar, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Pakistan," he added.

In its five years of implementation, Walk This Way has successfully reached out to more than 600,000 children from 89 schools in five key cities nationwide including Parañaque, Pasay, Olongapo, Cebu and Quezon City.

Police and SKP as well as other stakeholders (barangay and school officials), are working together to combat high visibility enforcement events aimed at protecting children from injuries and deaths caused by road hazards, especially while walking to and from school.

CAMPI 3rd Philippine International Motor Show
Count down 56 days to go

MOTORING

Tell us your feedback
E-mail us_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Joey N. Arruiza

Code name: F10

By Butch Santos

ASIAN CARMAKERS CORPORATION, the official distributor of BMW cars in Philippines, recently launched the new BMW 5 Series sedan, codenamed F10, under the covered arch and fountain area of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Ayala Tower One Complex in Makati City, the country's financial capital. This sixth generation of BMW's executive express is the most popular sedan in its segment with a bias for self-driven executives desiring a car that is both fashionably classy and rewardingly sporty to drive.

Asian Carmakers Corporation will be initially offering the BMW 535i which will retail at P3.39 million and the BMW 523i Executive at P3.59 million. The new Double-VANOS equipped engine has a highly economizable Valvetronic 5 matching CO2 emission of 170grams per kilometer, which is per-spective is better than a typical 1.6 liter 4-cylinder engine school from a decade ago. Peak power is 306hp with 370nm of torque, mated via an all-new ZF 8-speed automatic transmission with viperonic-like manual override affended by paddle shifters mounted behind the handsome multi-function 3-spoke steering wheel that also houses controls for the audio and cruise control systems.

With the longest wheelbase in the segment, rear overall space and legroom is improved significantly, a common complaint over the two previous BMW 5-Series. Dynamically, this helps high-speed stability particularly in emergency lane-changing maneuvers and high-speed cornering corners. Pressed by BMW designer and Bangle protégé Adrian Van Hooydonk, the saved BMW visual cues are to be found both at the front with its BMW kidney grille inclined slightly forward and on the strikingly chiseled engine compartment lid, in the stylish and elegant side view of the car, plus the Hofmeister Kink, a design cue that is as important to insiders and enthusiasts as the kidney grilles themselves. Thankfully the Bangle-butt is now extinct, replaced by a muscular rear end that is more agreeable to automotive and enthusiastic alike.

Inside, the 14-way powered seats offer very good support for the aggressive driver, yet still offer decent comfort and ease, thanks to leather covering, most surfaces, broken only by black piano-wood inserts and some aluminum accents on the center console and dashboard. A wide center console also angled slightly towards the driver houses the small gearshift and the optional iDRIVE with LCD monitor on the dashboard that features quick access buttons to the major vehicle systems. Even up front, the new F10 5-Series offers improvements in leg, knee, hip and foot room for the well-endowed drivers. Overall the dash architecture is simplified with less complicated swoops and lines, with buttons also redacted to give a hardier, more elegant feel. A welcome return is that the dash is now angled clearly again towards the driver, last seen in the E39 5-Series.

Rolling stock consists of 61 X 17" wheels mounted with 225/55R17 Goodyear high-performance all-season run-flat tires.

As with any modern BMW product, active and passive safety equipment consists of the alphabet soup of DSC, DTC, ASC, traction and stability control systems, ABS, EBD-CBC-DBC brake control systems equipped with the latest corresponding software for braking on wet conditions and brake fade. Multiple dual-stage deployment airbags are found are standard with optional rear airbags for higher-end models and the usual 5-point seatbelts while the ultra-sanctioned chassis construction making use of high-strength alloys to ensure a very safe and rigid cabin.

BMW's Efficient Dynamics technologies are featured as standard such as Brake Energy Regeneration, a gearshift point indicator to allow you to shift gears at the optimal, efficient point in the rev-range, and on-demand operation of ancillary units such as the alternator and electrically operated engine water-pump. Intelligent lightweight construction. Finally, is ensured by features such as the doors, engine compartment lid, front side panels and suspension components made of aluminum. The lightweight and intelligent construction thereby helps dynamic performance by decreasing weight where it matters the most and increases fuel efficiency without compromising safety, as evidenced by the 5-Series' excellent 5-Star rating in the EURO NCAP crash testing.

Both ACC Chairman and CEO Jose Ch. Alvarez and BMW Asia head Johannes Reibert gave thanks to all the VIP customers who pre-ordered their new 5-Series, honoring expectations of both ACC and BMW Asia.

AN EXCELLENT 5-Star rating in the Euro NCAP crash testing bound the mark of the 5 Series.

THE INTERIOR offers improvements in leg, knee, hip and foot room for the well-endowed drivers.

FROM left, Asian Carmakers Corp. President Bobby Rivadeo, ACC chairman Jose Ch. Alvarez, Blanca Valeriz and BMW Asia managing director Johannes Reibert at the launch

FROM left, BMW Manager's Gil Balderia, Alvarez, Felicia Pajarito and Autohaus BMW chairman Antonio Aquino

INSPIRING DESIGNS DON'T ALWAYS BEGIN ON PAPER.

It started as a competition among our teams of designers. In the end, the new BMW 5 Series emerged as a cohesive vision of ample power and elegant beauty. A rhythm of sculpted lines begins on the hood, hinting at a power source awaiting its first command. Intriguing innovations await the driver. Like the 8-speed sports automatic transmission, electronic which allows enhanced ride comfort, smoother and faster gearshifts. Everything works together to ensure all your destinations will be well worth the journey. The new BMW 5 Series: an Exploration of Beauty. Explore more at www.bmw.com/5Series#

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Search on for next Asian F1 driver

By JP Talusan
Lotus Racing Editor

IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT weekend at the International Kart Race (IKRC). A quartet of attendees left our team driver, Indie-racer Mandaluyong last during practice), maybe Lima on Sunday afternoon. I told my drivers that as the very least they should learn from the experience is a "what NOT to do on the race track."

The weekend wasn't a total disaster however, and I had a great chat with a former Formula One driver, Alex Yoong, also was in the kart race site—coaching a group of young karters—while keeping an eye out for new talents in the race itself.

Alex is a Malaysian. He racing competed and when he was only 16 and racing a local touring car series. He moved on to single seater racing in the Far East Asia series where he became a champion three times over in the British F3 race and did a few races in Formula Nippon. He also got a fantastic chance to break into F1 in 2000 when he was called upon by F1 team Minardi, then owned by Malaysian Paul Stoddart, to drive in the Australian Grand Prix recently and has been quite successful.

Let me share with you some interesting parts of our conversation.

JP: What has been keeping you busy?

Alex: I'm primarily involved in Lotus F1 Racing which is nurtured in the Young Driver Development Program. A part of which is to identify and design programme to support kids that we believe have the talent to go to F1 but is struggling financially.

MALAYSIAN Alex Yoong shows in action.

JP: What makes this program different from other F1 Young Drivers Programs like Ferrari, McLaren or Red Bull?

Alex: Our program specifically looks at Asian drivers only. It is our main principal. Tony Fernandez, who has talked me with the goal to find and develop a young talented driver not to just become a Formula 1 driver but a Formula 1 World Champion. Tony's personal vision is to find a local talent. I believe it will be difficult task but our plan is possible.

JP: What do you think of Asian Drivers?

Alex: I think Asian drivers have talent but many are very lazy. We are looking to put some Philippine drivers but drivers from all over the region. We would like to get the drivers as early as possible to control what they do. I believe it is possible to mould future drivers and make them great drivers from this region tend to motivate better than their European counterparts, as it is important to get them set focused to racing out there as soon as possible.

JP: What are you looking for in recruiting a young potential F1 driver? Skill? Financial capability?

Alex: What we look for is work ethic. We are looking for young drivers that will be dedicated to make it all the way. So the things that are necessary to become a Formula 1 driver. Skill and financial capability are important but not too high up on the requirements list.

JP: What does it take for drivers to get to F1 someday?

Alex: The test is huge. I believe you can even get considered for Formula 1 you must be willing to spend 5 million Euro (about P280 million) and about 10 years of dedicated racing and training. This is aside from the obvious skill, experience and exposure to drive in races. You have climbing the final step in F1.

JP: Finally, what advice can you give to an aspiring F1 driver?

Alex: Start as early as possible. Get kart racing experience and improve on it. The best drivers make it to Formula one by about 20. Good luck!

For more information about starting your racing career in the Philippines log onto www.racingcircuit.com or email me at talusan@philippinecircuit.com. Send in your questions or comments and I will try to feature it on future articles! See you in the races!

Goodyear honors outstanding motorists

By Alvin Uy

DC COMICS RECENTLY CELEBRATED its 75 years of publishing superhero comics. Why are caped heroes still popular up to now? Even if these heroes have mythical super powers, they are mostly admired for their values and ideals. Against unbeatable odds, they often struggled to protect the innocent and even the not so innocent. In the real world, heroes can be found in a lot of places. Today's heroes are just ordinary folks whose circumstances are actually created by opportunity.

Last Saturday, Goodyear Philippines concluded its nationwide search for the 2009 Bayani ng Kalsada with the awarding of five outstanding drivers nationwide who exemplified safe motoring because on the road. Now in its 5th year, Bayani ng Kalsada annually recognizes Filipino drivers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help others in need.

Bayani ng Kalsada is the Philippine version of a successful long-running Goodyear promotion held annually in the US and Canada since 1981, that is now also held annually in Asia Pacific countries such as Australia, Vietnam, Indonesia and in recent years, the Philippines. Dubbed Highway Heroes, the promotion honors ordinary citizen drivers who have done heroic acts of courage, sacrifice and service on the road over the last two decades.

Jessy Alava, managing director of Goodyear Philippines explains, "This is what Bayani ng Kalsada (BNK) is all about. More than an opportunity for media exposure, BNK is a concrete manifestation of road safety—a celebration of ordinary deeds done by ordinary people who went beyond comfort and convenience to be 'Good Samaritans' when the situation called for it."

THE WINNERS of the Bayani ng Kalsada awards are flanked by Land Transportation Office Assistant Secretary Bert Suanding (left) and Gerry Alava, managing director of Goodyear. They are, second from left, Alejandro Baldovino, Arturo Bagatas, Francisco Sala, Jody Alcaraz and first female winner Georgina Manansan.

No need for superpowers

All but one of this year's finalists were public utility vehicle drivers. More than any driver, the responsibility of road safety falls more heavily on the shoulders of the public utility drivers whose passengers' lives and safety they hold in their hands. This was the case of jeepney driver Andy Alvarez and tricycle driver Alejandro Baldovino who came to the rescue of individuals who needed immediate medical assistance. While Jody Alcaraz's Augusta and taxi driver Francisco Sala built pit bonanzy above their personal needs as they chose to return stranded left in their vehicles.

This year's overall winner Andy Alvarez, Jr., is a honest and good hearted jeepney driver from Zamboanga who's been known to help out passengers who don't have enough money for fare. On one occasion, as he was waiting for his 16-seater jeepney to fill up, he noticed that his passenger was experiencing extreme discomfort. Upon closer look, he realized that his lone passenger was suffering a heart attack. Instead of hesitating, Alvarez rushed his passenger to the nearest hospital. To ensure his passenger was taken care of, he even took it upon himself to speak with the hospital staff before leaving him behind.

The other three BNK drivers were—Baldovino, 60, a tricycle driver from Batangas, chanced upon an unidentified man who met a motorcycle accident. He rushed the man to the hospital where he was deemed to be in critical condition. Because of Baldovino's quick thinking and thoughtfulness, the man survived. The other two drivers were selected because of their integrity. Despite the temptation of easy money, not one other honest letter Dagatan, a bus driver from Cebu City and Fernandez Sala, a taxi driver from Pasig City gave back the wallets they found left by their passengers. Sala asked the help of DMC as he turned the money over to a radio show hosted by newscaster Mike Enriquez. He won himself a GMA-7 700 Club.

Florence Nightingale awheels

The late lady driver Georgina Manansan who is based in Cebus was also the sole private driver honored in this year's search. As a nurse and mother of four, she always had the natural instinct to help those in need, whether on or off the road. In one incident, she observed a passenger in distress while on a trip in Isabela, seeing that the victim was badly injured, she proceeded to perform first aid. But since the victim was in need of medical attention, she took him to the nearby hospital.

Another hero, she helped a one-year-old child born brought by a truck. While driving along a narrow road in Isabela, she noticed an oncoming truck headed towards a toddler who was playing dangerously close to the road. She hurried her horn to catch the driver's attention to be avoid to without hesitation, she swerved her vehicle and used her car to block the child from the truck. After which she went down and brought the child to the social welfare center nearby.

Regional winners Baldovino, Dagatan and Manansan received a cash prize of P200,000 each while overall winners Alvarez received a cash prize of P500,000. This year's program is in cooperation with several agencies and corporations including the Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Gomez Negapse, Honda Subay Driving Center, Standard Insurance, Celosana Distiller and Safety Organizations of the Philippines, Inc. (SOPI).

MMPI, CARWORLD INC, LEASE SUBIC PROPERTY

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines Corp. and one of its authorized dealers Carworld Inc. (CWI) recently signed a 30-year Lease Term Agreement with the Subic Bay Development Management Corp. (SBDMC). CWI chairman of the board, Liberato P. Laus and its president of SBDMC signed the lease contract of the property located along Rizal and Jorgensen Highways, the future site of a full Mitsubishi Motors dealership. Also present to witness this event were MMPC and CWI executives, from left, Rizal Santiago Center manager for CWI; Ronaldo Gonzales of MMPC; Fernando B. Zuba (VP for consumer sales of MMPC); Ronny Sanchez (EVP of CWI and marketing); Diana C. Santos (VP for vehicle sales of MMPC); Frank de Jean (president of CWI); Alfie Adriano (VP and Deputy CFO of CWI); Atty. Ruel Maily (legal counsel CWI); Mark Medina (AVP for vehicle sales of MMPC) and Sonny Daniel (CWI's executive assistant). The new Mitsubishi Motors showroom and service center is expected to be completed by December 2012.

Audi reports sales growth in all regions

UNIT SALES AT AUDI CONTINUED to increase as the high-tech company reported that in May it sold 14.6 percent more cars worldwide than last year.

With around 94,900 units last month, the number of premium cars sold so far this year has increased to about 457,700, a rise of 21.7 percent. AUDI AG recorded growth in all regions, achieving the biggest increases in the company's most important export markets China, Great Britain and the United States.

"The Audi brand has made a significant leap forward in the US market during the crisis. We despite optimistic planning, we didn't expect the trend to take flight as it has," says Peter Schwarzenbauer, member of the Board of Management for Marketing and Sales at AUDI AG. "For the overall year of 2012, I expect a significantly double-digit growth rate." Over the first five months, AUDI AG increased its sold sales in the US market by 31.4 percent to 59,819 cars. In May the figures increased again by 22.7 percent.

A high share of the increasing unit sales was sold in Great Britain. In the liquid trade country's third largest export market, 8,992 customers chose a new Audi in May—26.6 percent more than during the same month of last year. Over the first five months Audi thus sold 22.1 percent more cars than in the period of January to May in 2008. The brand also achieved significant growth in Russia. In May AUDI AG increased its unit sales in this crisis ridden market by 30.2 percent; over the first five months Audi sold 27.6 percent more cars here than during the same period of 2008.

In all European export markets (outside Germany), Audi sales increased by 13.4 percent in May to around 38,600 cars. Cumulatively, that means a growth of 14 percent to around 190,300 units.

Schwarzenbauer: "In Europe we will experience an additional boost with the Audi A1. We have been taking orders for the past four weeks—and so far have registered more orders than for any other model in such an early phase."

In the Asia-Pacific region, China again led the growth in sales—a rise of 29.4 percent compared with May 2008. Some 17,396 Audi deliveries in China in the last month alone. Over the first five months, 88,451 Chinese customers chose a model with four rings—another record result for the leading premium brand in China.

Audi also sold significantly more cars than in the preceding year in all other markets of the region, with sales increasing in Japan (plus 16.1 percent), Australia (plus 36 percent) and India (plus 65.4 percent).

Audi currently employs around 56,600 people worldwide, including 49,500 in Germany.

Toy Story 3 collectibles at Shell

THE CHANGING OF THE SEASONS "TOY Story" films re-open the toy box and bring movie goers back to the delightful world of Woody, Buzz and our favorite gang of toy characters in Toy Story 3. This time around, Pilipinas Shell plans to outdo the last and hits its customers experience it by giving them a chance to own exclusive, limited-edition Toy Story 3 collectibles.

Pilipinas Shell Fuels Brand Manager Ilona Rodriguez-Baez said: "In the heart of the new Toy Story movie is an exciting journey from just like the toys in the movie, Shell gives its customers a chance to set off on their own adventures by taking home a piece of Toy Story 3."

Shell customers can bring home a piece of Toy Story 3 every time they gas up. The exclusive Toy Story 3 collectible comes in a set of five Shake Lightyear, Woody, Jessie, Bullseye and Lotso) Toy Story characters that viewers have grown to love.

Customers may avail of the limited edition Toy Story 3 characters with every P500 single or accumulated purchase at Shell V-Power plus PRO, or a P500 single or accumulated purchase of select Shell fuels and lubes (Super Premium, Super Unleaded, Gasoline Ultra, Kerosene, Solar Ultra, or Helix Ultra) and convenience store items, including oil change service plus PCSO.

Also, five lucky winners will be given a family vacation package for four. Coming from Metro Manila, North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, each winner will enjoy free roundtrip airfare tickets to Hong Kong and accommodations in Hong Kong Disneyland for three days and two nights. Promo runs from June 11, 2012 to July 31, 2012.

In the midst of masters

LIKE entering a time tunnel, the passage near the entrance of the museum and Legaspi's bust to the oldest known work of art in the Philippines

By Charles E. Buhain
Photos by Rogin Margolle

WITH ITS ROMANTIC LOCATION AND hills set traditions, the towns surrounding Laguna de Bay often style themselves as the "art destination of the Philippines."

They produced, after all, one of the greatest Filipinos who ever lived, our National Hero, Jose Rizal who was a traveler and a poet from Calamba to Laguna. On the opposite side of the lake is Juanis to-see National Artist, painter Carlos "Botong" Francisco and composer Lucio San Pedro who both hail from Angono, Rizal.

In these towns of Rizal, Laguna and Quezon continue to shelter future National Artists and master craftsmen, Honda Cars Philippines decided to bring Inquirer Motoring to some of these awe-inspiring destinations to found the car maker's latest master work, the Honda City.

The first station were: The all new City with its ultra-bold front grille and angular headlights is often referred to as a work of art.

The longer you look at it, the more you see how the three-bar grille, the creases on the hood, the converging sides and a slanted rear design are able to control light and shadow that enhances the all new City's dynamic stance.

More than 10,000 units

Without doubt, this fresh design of the all new City has helped HCPI sell more than 10,000 units (10,361 as of February 2014), which is considered spectacular for a car launched only in January last year.

"Our buyers really appreciated the car's fuel economy quality and value for money. More importantly, they immediately fell in love with the City's new look. To celebrate this sales achievement we decided that a scar to some of the inspiring spots around Laguna de Bay would enable participants not only to appreciate the place but also to savor genuine flavors of their craft," informs HCPI PR officer Sheryll delos Santos.

The morning drive went well as our convoy composed of two 1.5- and one 1.3-liter variants of the all new City were lucky enough to encounter no heavy traffic along Manila's Expressways.

In just a few hours our group composed of business Shaweng editor Jong Sosmeña, senior photographer Roger Margolle and this writer Suzanne Shawcraig columnist Sofia Serrella Mendoza joined us later in the evening) reached Tanay in Quezon province where we stopped at the home/workshop/restaurant of the town's most famous son, ceramic artist Rogelio "Lipa" Rigonan.

Rigonan is known for his world class ceramic sets, decorative tiles and accent pieces for finishing work and flooring, samples of which are on sale or displayed in his residence.

WITH REPRODUCTIONS of ancient Egyptian statuses (above) and an enormous dragon (far right), entering the lair of Eia Design in Angono, Rizal, is like visiting a Hollywood set.

WITH THE ALL-new Honda City as his new wheels, master painter Elena shows off his virtuosity with clay.

THE ALL-new Honda City handles the curvaceous terrain of the province with ease as it follows Rizal Road, connecting Tanay, Quezon and Binangonan, Rizal.

Pottery dorm

After a sumptuous lunch, Rigonan's assistant, master potter Ruffy Rivera treated us to a pottery demo which was followed (later by a cooking demo of one of the dishes that we enjoyed: The fabled Kalamay, which is a native delicacy made of eggplant or banana heart, charcoal-roasted coconut, onions, garlic, cane cane vinegar, salt and pepper.

In as much as we would like to stay at Rigonan's amazing place, we had to depart as soon as possible as we needed to be in Binangonan in time to beat the nightmare.

After driving through a seemingly endless series of curves, past the towns of Calauan, Pete, Tanay and Morong (a 209-kilometer plus drive), we finally reached Thunderbird Resort in around 8 p.m.

The following morning, we were joined by HCPI PR head Fritz Reyes as we proceeded to Angono Petroglyphs, which is just a short drive away from the resort. Discovered in 1965 by Botong Francisco himself, these drawings were etched on the walls of a mountainside (actually a former side of a collapsed cave) along the boundaries of Angono and Binangonan.

3000 years BC

Composed of 127 engravings that date back to circa late Neolithic (3000 BC), these human and animal stick figures somehow hint where Angono's artistic tradition may have originated.

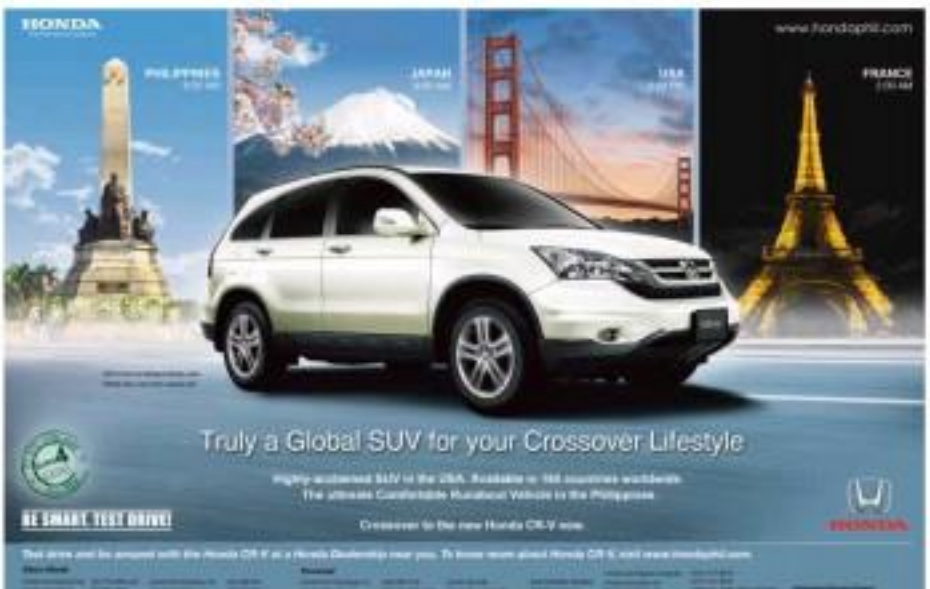
Next stop was Eia Design, producers 3D statues and replicas made mainly out of polyester resin (reinforced with fiberglass).

The place boasts of a 4,2-hectare production plant that houses a showroom filled with figurines of all sizes (humans, American iconography, Santo Cristo, cows, animals, mystery). According to the attendant, some of the figurines end up inside themed restaurants, hotels, public places and private homes (in fact, one of Mt Pinatubo's victims, a Japanese anime character, became the centerpiece of a posh New York apartment that was designed by fashion icon Versace).

To cap the tour, our group visited the Blanco family Museum in Angono where the works of muralist and National Artist awardee Jose "Pitok" Blanco, his wife and seven children were on display.

Blanco, who died in August 2000 at the age of 76, is best known for his murals of Angono life. Among the most memorable would be the "Angono Town Fiesta," a giant canvas showing more than 200 figures, representing Blanco's household as well as communities (the artist himself appears in the scene, cradling his grandchild and pointing him to the celebration) as well as the country's "The Burning of Angono," that depicts the painful memory of World War II, when Japanese forces set the town ablaze in reprisal for the killing of Makapili (collaborator) agents.

Indeed, the two-day trip with HCPI was an eye opener. As we headed back to Makati City that afternoon, we can't help but realize that the all new City we were riding on was also produced by artists who painstakingly sketched as well as sculpted clay models months before the all new City rolled out of its manufacturing plant.



THE THREE Audi R10 TDI cars joinlana their win in the 76th 24 Hours Le Mans endurance race.

Audi's 1-2-3 Sweep

LE MANS, FRANCE—AUDI won the 24 Hours of Le Mans for the ninth time on Sunday by taking the first three places.

The Audi No. 9 car was first at the 13.6-kilometre LH 4-miler Circuit de la Sarthe, netting a record number of 397 laps. The No. 8 and No. 7 cars took second and third places, while all Peugeot cars retired.

Audi had Swiss for 2nd place in the list of the most successful manufacturers at Le Mans. Porsche has the best record with 16 wins.

Winning driver Tom Kristensen, teaming up with fellow German driver Mike Rockenfeller and Romain Dumas of France, won a lap ahead of the Audi No. 8, driven by Benoit Treluyer of France with Swiss Marcel Fassler and Andre Lotterer of Germany.

"It's unbelievable, I didn't expect it," Rockenfeller said. "We did a good, clean job and we were lucky that our main competitor had so many problems."

Italy's Dindo Capello —in the No. 7 Audi with Tom Kristensen of Denmark and Britain's Allan McNish— was third, three laps back.

Bernhard, Rockenfeller and Dumas won for the first time while Audi secured its hold while after sweeping the three top spots in 2000, 2002 and 2004.

Defending champion Peugeot was considered a huge favorite after monopolizing the top four spots on the starting grid. It already had the fastest cars but ran into problems during the race, while Audi took advantage of its cars' better reliability.

"At the beginning it was a little unlucky for us, but at the end it worked out fine," Audi team chief Wolfgang Ullrich said. "It's a great reward for all the work everyone has done. I think this has to be the hardest Le Mans we've ever done."

The remaining No. 1 Peugeot with 1824 driven by Alexander Wurz, Marc Gene and Stephane Sarrazin, dropped out with engine failure with just over hours remaining. That setback ruined four hours after the leading No. 2 of Stephane Sarrazin, Franck Montagny and Nicolas Minassian retired with turbo failure.

The No. 1 Peugeot had made an impressive comeback after being forced to pit for 31 minutes with electric problems, dropping in the process from first to seventh place. The No. 1 Peugeot moved back to second, still 6 mins and 2seconds adrequately improving the best time.

Peugeot's problems started immediately this year. The car driven by former Champ Car champion Sebastien Bourdais, which had started from pole, retired because of suspension damage after less than three hours Saturday.

The non-factory Oreca Peugeot of Olivier Pelan, Nicolas Lapierre and Loic Duval also retired with engine failure. David was attempting to catch the Mazda 7 multi-rotor within 18 seconds of third place when his car's engine blew up.

Peugeot ended Audi's 4-year dominance at Le Mans last year when it claimed its first win since 1993.

Audi's hopes suffered a severe setback during the 8th hour when it claimed its first win since 1993.

Audi's hopes suffered a severe setback during the 8th hour when it claimed its first win since 1993.

THE LE MANS winning Audi R10 TDI engine.

THE VICTORIOUS Audi team savoring their 1-2-3 sweep of the 2010 24 Hours of Le Mans.

Le Mans 24 Hours Results

LE MANS, FRANCE —RESULTS SUNDAY FROM THE 24 Hours of Le Mans at the 13.629-kilometer (8.45-mile) Circuit de la Sarthe (with drivers, country, car, laps completed):

1 Mike Rockenfeller, Germany; Romain Dumas, France; Timo Bernhard, Germany; Audi No. 9, 397 laps.

2 Marcel Fassler, Switzerland; Benoit Treluyer, France; Andre Lotterer, Germany; Audi No. 8, one lap behind.

3 Tom Kristensen, Denmark; Allan McNish, Britain; Dindo Capello, Italy; Audi No. 7, 3 laps behind.

4 Sebastien Bourdais, France; Andrew Meyrick, Britain; Didier Andre, France; Oreca 01 AIM No. 8, 28 laps behind.

5 Nick Leventis, Britain; Danny Watts, Britain; Jonny Kane, Britain; Strakka HPD ARX-01b No. 42, 30 laps behind.

6 Adrian Fernandez, Mexico; Stefan Mucke, Germany; Fritz Kiesch, Switzerland; Lola-Aston Martin No. 7, 32 laps behind.

7 Matthieu Lahaye, France; Guillaume Moreau, France; Jan Charouz, Czech Republic; OAK Racing Pescarolo-Judd No. 35, 36 laps behind.

8 Thomas Erdos, Britain; Mike Newton, Britain; Andy Wallace, Britain; HVM Lola-HPD No. 25, 50 laps behind.

9 Jacques Nicolet, France; Richard Hein, Monaco; Jean-Francois Yvon, France; OAK Racing Pescarolo-Judd No. 24, 66 laps behind.

MIKE Rockenfeller of Germany celebrates.

FROM LEFT, Audi drivers Benoit Treluyer, Andre Lotterer and Marcel Fassler

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing Editor Lia S. Bernardo

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

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How to make your own safe cleaning products

With easy-to-find ingredients such as baking soda, cornstarch, foil, flour, lemon, mild soap, oil, salt, toothpaste, water and vinegar

By Jaroje-Gallegos Yeniseo
Contributor

(first of two parts)

MANY CLEANING PRODUCTS contain abrasive chemicals and artificial fragrances. Less than 30 percent of petrochemicals sold for home use are examined for their effects on the planet and people's health, according to the US National Research Council.

For instance, sodium hypochlorite in chlorine bleach, when added to ammonia, releases toxic chloramine gas. Short-term exposure may cause mild undesirable symptoms or more serious respiratory problems.

For better overall health, swap your harsh chemical cleaners for nontoxic, fully biodegradable, organic, plant-based brands like Mistela, Greenworks, Simple Green or Shaneshuay (manybeen.com), which every client gets P150 off for every bottle returned for a refill.

Or, make your own cleaners instead!

Below are some recipes for commonly used cleaners that use only safe ingredients: baking soda, cornstarch, cream of tartar, foil, flour, lemon, mild soap, oil, salt, toothpaste, water and vinegar.

All-purpose cleaner

Phenol and cresol in disinfectants are associated with triggering diabetes, asthma, kidney and liver damage.

Instead, try Simple Green multipurpose cleaner (P199.75, 946ml) or Shiny Bissy Multi Design surface cleaner (P220, 480ml).

Or, make your own by mixing 4 tablespoons baking soda with 1 cup warm water.

Drain cleaner

First, try a plunger. If that doesn't work, pour ½ cup baking soda down the drain and chase it with ½ cup vinegar. Cover the drain.

Warning: Don't do this after using a commercial drain opener (which harms skin, eyes, lungs and the water supply); the vinegar can react with it and emit toxic gas.

If you've already used one, do this instead: Pour a cup of baking soda over the drain, followed by 3 cups boiling water. Hot water transforms baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) to washing soda (sodium carbonate).

Floor cleaner and polish

Nitrobenzene in furniture and floor polishes is linked to cancer and birth defects and can lead to skin discoloration, sheer...

TURN TO PAGE 12

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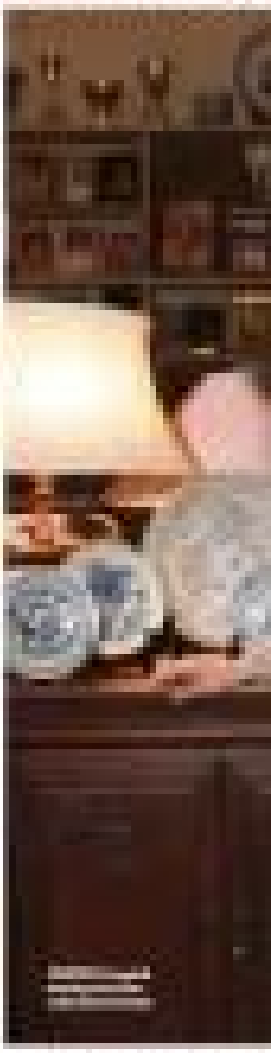


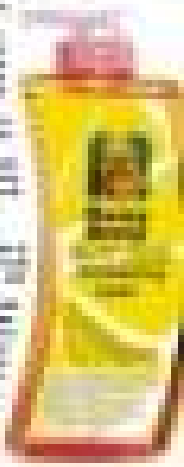
Carmen Campbell's fine linen and stylish silver jewelry

Do-it-yourself

D.I.Y.

Aqua's calming effect in your home

How to make your own s



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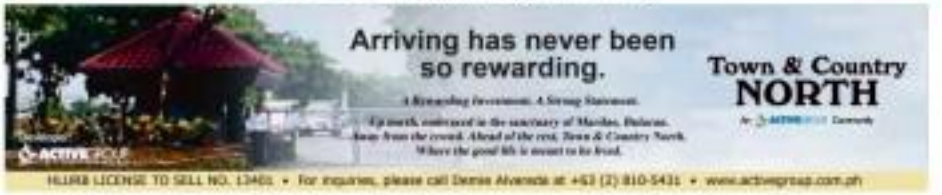


Her technique mixes threading, knots, drill holes, basket-weaving with tapestry-weaving

THE ARTIST uses plastic caps, plastic spoons and forks, recycled plastic bottles and glass, metallic rods, fabrics, stainless steel wire, metal pins and other trashcans or metal objects...

Ocean inspires French-Filipina to create unique lamps

By Ria de Borja
Core Buzz

FRENCH-FILIPINA OLIVIA D'Aboville will hold her first Philippine exhibit at Ayala Museum titled "A Charm of Enamored" next month.

D'Aboville started painting with acrylic and oils at 6 years old. She attended the French School in Manila and European International School in Manila before moving to France, where she studied art for six years.

At the Francoise Cortis Superior Arts School, she specialized in pattern design. She was then admitted to Duperre, a prestigious school of applied arts in Paris, where she developed a love for working with her hands.

She specialized in textile structures and weaving and developed a fascination for weaving three dimensional forms.

Initially inspired by basket weaving, she became more interested in weaving 3D forms when she saw a mural/tapestry hanging out in Siem Reap, Cambodia in 2007.

"The mother was filled with suspended flowers of all images, in various hues of light blues and translucent white. I instantly fell in love with the material and saw great potentialities."

Moved by the ocean and seeing diving in Puerto Galera, where D'Aboville vacationed during much of her childhood, she created works that included light installations.

"Light is essential. It brings out the visual nature through reflections and various levels of transparency and deformation."

SHE improvised a way that mixes basket-weaving with tapestry-weaving to create objects that can be used as lamps.

The objects – made of materials such as plastic caps, plastic spoons and forks, recycled plastic bottles and glass, metallic rods, fabrics, stainless steel wire, metal pins and other trashcans or metal objects...interspace the distances of the water surface, sea creatures, and flora current and the hue it radiates in its fish depths.

"The technique I do utilizes a mix of threading, knots, drill holes, I improvised a way that mixes basket-weaving with tapestry-weaving to create objects that can be used as lamps," says D'Aboville.

D'Aboville watched documentaries about the ocean, and plunged herself in the sea environment while working on her sculptures.

"I always remind myself of the focus of the project but I don't specifically think of an animal. I want the process and the works to be organic."

New French door ref for today's lifestyle needs

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS Philippines Corporation (SEPCO) rolls out its latest premium RF62HEBS French Door Refrigerator for the Philippine market.

The RF62HEBS has advanced storage technologies to keep food fresh. With sleek design, the Samsung French Door Refrigerator blends in the modern home.

"The new RF62HEBS French Door Refrigerator is designed to provide the ultimate convenience, based on Samsung's research to understanding users' habits," said Liz Navarrete, product manager digital home appliance business, SEPCO.

"The modern family makes less frequent grocery trips and needs to keep food fresh for a longer period, and also uses the fridge more than the freezer. The RF62HEBS meets these evolving needs to consumers' lifestyles."

"Samsung had great success with the French Door Refrigerator style in the US, and is now the number leader there. We look forward to introducing this new design to consumers in this region and have an ambitious plan to be the number one brand in this segment," she added.

As the fridge is used more often than the freezer, the fridge compartments of the Samsung French Door Refrigerator are placed above the freezer so the more convenient height for users. Even though the freezer is placed at the bottom, users do not have to worry about having their back when they bend down to open the freezer door.

The RF62HEBS features Samsung's proprietary All Open Handle technology, which enables users to open the freezer door with minimum force by simply lifting up the handle slightly and pulling the freezer easily.

The refrigerator also uses a single, full-body shell, unlike conventional twin separated shelves, which makes organizing food items easier. Door shelves also offer an easier way to view the items stored and are made to withhold heavy weights.

The RF62HEBS also incorporates an easy-to-carry movable fresh box for juice, cheese and bacon.

Samsung's French Door Refrigerator also comes with Samsung's unique Twin Cooling technology. The Twin Cooling system uses two independent evaporators, combined with a precise control system to provide optimal humidity at 45 percent compared to only 17 percent found in conventional models.

To keep nutrients locked in, the No Frost feature ensures that food do not dehydrate too. Individual or fruity layers, to maintain quality and taste. All these ensure that food is kept healthy and fresher much longer.

The Twin Cooling technology also eliminates cross contamination of food odors, so there is no mixing of cooled air between compartments. Consumers and ideal temperature for the freshest food is also ensured because each compartment is cooled separately. Optimal temperatures are also more quickly restored after the door has been opened.

The RF62HEBS French Door is incorporated with Samsung's CoolSafe Lock Design. This sleek and durable ancillary design eliminates the need for unsightly and often damage prone insulating door strips. The design also helps in maintaining optimal temperature within the fridge to keep the food fresh by trapping cold air underneath its flaps as the fridge door is closed. In effect, the fridge looks neater, the food stays cooler and your energy bills remain lower.

The Samsung French Door Refrigerator also has a 19-inch slim fit cantilever that enables them to fit seamlessly into the modern kitchen. Their thin-colored, easy-to-view digital displays give a state-of-the-art look, while the contour doors and hidden hinges provide a neat square frontal view to enhance their graceful exterior, infusing a modern look to any kitchen décor.

SAMSUNG French Door Refrigerator

LIFESTYLE Parenting

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Century Tuna reveals new faces of health and fitness /D2

■ How my friend BJ discovered life and family–in jail /D3

Clear waters =
Fresh, clean taste

How can you tell if bangus tastes fresh and clean? Find out where it was raised.

It's natural that bangus raised in the open seas is clean tasting and walang lasang gilik o putik.

Century Bangus is raised in Century farms in the open seas of Gen San. Out in the sea, dissolved oxygen is abundant for growth and survival. Waves wash away wastes so as not to pollute the environment. Bigger and deeper waters provide space for growth and meat development.

Blue seas have clean waters that provide a natural growing environment. Here, bangus feeds on nutritionally-balanced fish feeds to attain the desired quality.

The Century Way

Century Bangus is bred and grown in Century farms that operate under the strictest measures using sustainable and environment-friendly methods. The farms are registered with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, while the processing plants are Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) – certified.

Farm-fresh World-class!

Century Bangus comes straight from the Century farms to your favorite supermarkets and groceries to your table and to the world – so you, your family and friends can enjoy its blue sea-freshness.

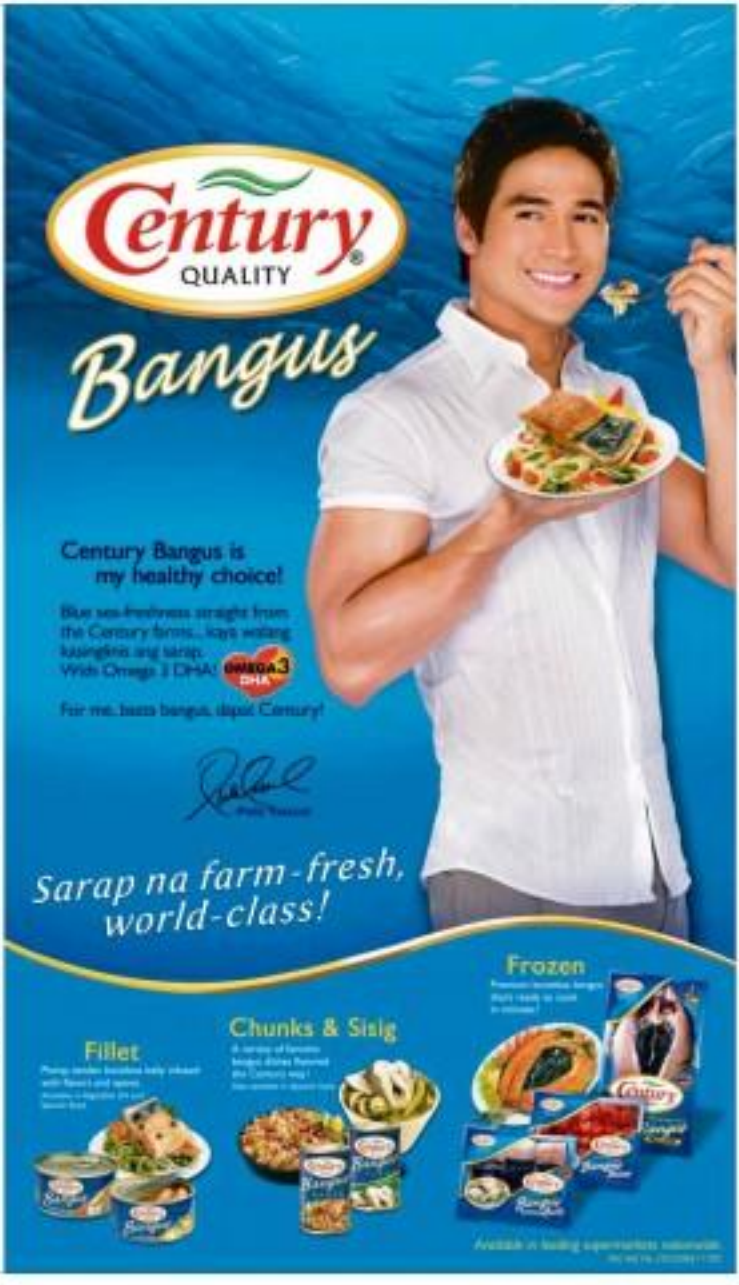
Piolo's Healthy Choice

Piolo's healthy lifestyle demands healthy eating. His work-hard, play-hard routine calls for convenient yet healthy and delicious meal options. This is why Century Bangus is Piolo's healthy choice. He delights in the fact that Century Bangus has Omega 3 DHA and he gets to enjoy it in a variety of ways and flavors – straight from the can or hot from the pan.

For Piolo, basta bangus, dapat Century., walang kaningkinis ang sarap! Sarap na farm-fresh, world-class!

Find us on Facebook

to discover more about Century Bangus.



CENTURY Pacific Group general manager David Tantoco and R&D director Daisy Engle

SINGERS Cowapers

CENTURY Tuna senior product manager Angela Querijero

NUTRITIONIST Darwin Tan

CENTURY Tuna's latest endorsers. Civil engineer Vincent Lazatin and TV host/model Renette Orejudos with psychology student Jillian Lee and nursing student Lea Nicolas

Century Tuna reveals new faces of health and fitness

CENTURY TUNA endorsers Derek Ramsay and Angel Locsin

IT WAS NOT ONLY BARONG SUITS, dalitaw, but Saab Superbook, when Star Search advocate brand, Century Tuna, unveiled its newest new health ambassador, gorgeous actress Angel Locsin, in a launch held at Annabel's restaurant in Quezon City.

The sunny afternoon was no match for the hot, lit and sexy physique of Angel, who was joined by Century General Tuna mega endorser, sexy hunk Derek Ramsay plus Superbook 2010 winners, giving us an idea of what they're cooking up for their new campaign, palengke.

"This is absolutely an exciting time for Century Tuna positioning itself as a health and wellness brand. Our thrust really is for customer to realize the value of living healthy by eating right and having fitness activities. This is clearly communicated through our new health ambassador Angel Locsin and the Superbook who truly mirror the Century Tuna lifestyle," said Angela Querijero. Century Tuna senior product manager.

Angel excitingly said: "The best part is I'm endorsing something that I really believe in because I've always been a big Century Tuna fan. Apart from my passion for sports, Century Tuna is my secret for staying slim and sexy!"

Derek was ecstatic: "I've really wanted to work with Angel for a long time and I'm glad that it has finally come true because it's reaching out to everyone, inspiring them to adopt a lifestyle of health and fitness."

New contenders were also announced. Superbook during the totally awesome Century Tuna Superbook Run 2010, and grabbed a cool P100,000 each, plus being featured in Century Tuna ads.

Leave it to my personal favorite brand, palengke. Century Tuna gives us a new way of living for #Filipinos, #Only, palengke!

Cayetano's untouchable Tuesdays

Our town's hippest, living on the last lane, got a taste of tasting back the check when they dashed over to Cayetano's Bistro Lane of my fave the Intramuros, by the way) for the launch of Vivo Coffee & Ink, the city's latest trendy tattoo parlor and coffee shop. Movers and shakers Raoul Gilbey and Daniel Rapaport blew our minds with their latest endeavor: "It's a place to bring the world of tattoos and body art into a Fun setting. Our vision coming to life," said the duo. I went down and had a couple of beers while waiting to get a tattoo, which I didn't push through with, palengke. But they even had a live tattoo demo during the happening, dalitaw.

Backing the house was Cayetano's top house band, Velcro, and newly married workers, The Oracle's Charlie Veneri, Manny Amador and Johnny Rosa. Both bands had us all singing and dancing (I swear we're hyperventilated). It was that much fun with birthday celebrants Lala Gamboa-Lejeune and Brian Quebengco, palengke.

Narrated, along with Dino Hollywires, had the house cheering.

Too bad I missed the night where Gilbert

PALAFOX ASSOCIATES' Felino "Jun" Palafox Jr., Ramon Zaragoza, Karina Palafox and Chesca Ponce

LEO PO and wife Maricita Ramos

SAMA Alzul and Carla Co Limjoeg

WASHINGTON Syca, Marites Hicks, Jun Palafox Jr. and Rick Ramos of CB Richard Ellis

LALA Cayetano-Lejeune and Brian Quebengco

VICE ING'S Raoul Gilbey and his sister, international bag designer Rocio Gilbey

SUPREME Court Justice Conchita Carpio Morales and Mary Lou Claudio

MAI N. Medina, Patrick Conde and Kathy Espiritu

LYKA Tiongson and Peraldia Calvelli

CHOWKING marketing director Edward Arandia, brand link Jericho Rosales, Chowking Restaurants president Erwin Elechicon, brand group manager Chris Monteron and product officer Ernest Concepcion

MICHELLE Martinez, Cherie Lopez and Janel Dy

HOST chef Rosebud Benitez

FLORENCIO Jose Jr., Brian Ong, Sunshine Perez, Samantha Trinidad and Alan Dizon

Photos by Alex Tan Hagen using NIKE Photo Solutions

At and his talented team, palengke.

The best part was the surprise from his wife Wilma Palafox who, together with the architect's three children, totally surprised the awesome man of the hour—who marked his 60th birthday with a swimmers and fun birthday tribute.

But the best gift the brilliant architect received was the sage fantastic retreat he took of 20 years gut, dalitaw.

Check out this great book, an inspiration for all aspiring and professional architects and designers, at all major bookstores.

For more info and orders, call 812-1204 to 06.

New Chowking treat

Chowking always amaze their customers with fab surprises in their yummy menu. Well, palengket, they did it again when we learned they have added Orange Chicken to their scrumptious extraordinary new dining. Chowking's 25th year. The treat unveiled their latest dish—Chowking Orange Chicken meal alongside their new and 138 home endorser Anneke Rosales at Chowking Fort Bonifacio.

Festival went hot to the second floor of the resto and were greeted with more orange surprises. "With the combination of our favorite chicken and sweet flavor of orange, Chowking's new Orange Chicken is really a new way to enjoy any lunch or dinner meal. This is certainly an awesome meal that gives Filipinos a delicious, convenient, an instant favorite," said Article R. dalitaw.

Hosted by chef Rosebud Benitez, the meals happening was led by Chowking president Erwin Elechicon, in-line, marketing director Edward Arandia and brand group manager Chris Monteron.

Chowking has 403 restaurants across and continues to expand their reach abroad, dalitaw.

Have an Hilarious meal anytime, call 8-8888 for Chowking delivery.

Believe me, it's so yummy, palengke.

Tuti Galvari

That woman of substance and master and dedicated president of Filbar Cultural Foundation, Shiky Zubiri, has announced that "The Filbar Cultural Foundation continues Season 3, Ensembles of 8, with Tuti Galvari, a concert of eight guitarists led by the legendary Tuti, one of the most noted guitar groups in Mandaluyong and the Filbar Guitar Ensemble at the Insular Life Corporate Center auditorium, Insular Life building, Alabang, on Saturday, June 26, 8 p.m."

Tickets are P800 and P400 with a 50 percent discount for students and 20 percent for senior citizens. See of the most noted guitar groups in Mandaluyong and the Filbar Guitar Ensemble at the Insular Life Corporate Center auditorium, Insular Life building, Alabang, on Saturday, June 26, 8 p.m."

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For tickets or other info, call Sheryl at 0919-8459472, 660-4895, e-mail filbarfoundation@yahoo.com.ph.

How my friend BJ discovered life and family–in jail

By Marina Benipayo
Correspondent

I SAW HIM FROM afar and thought, "Wow, he sure looks like my friend, BJ Santos..." As we approached each other, another lady greeted him excitedly. She called him BJ. I was in shock that I failed to recognize my friend. It had been a long time.

I took glances at him and thought he looked healthier. He had cut his hair short. He even looked fairer, but the most recognizable features...his eyes and the most perfect set of teeth I've seen...were still there. He seemed almost entirely different from the last time I saw him; he looked more at peace with himself now.

Secure relationship

As a child, BJ did not have a secure relationship with his father and elder sister. He missed the nurturing attention his mom had always given; she died when he was 9.

BJ and his dad were not able to form a bond that might have guided him on his road to maturity. The manners of communication he had with his dad was different. He had to know everything the hard way; meaning, he had to end up doing something unsavory on second before he could realize that what he did or said was wrong.

His father always focused on BJ's mistakes, thinking it would make the boy feel lowed, but this made BJ feel more distant.

The adventurous and outgoing personality of his son was perceived as a form of rebellion. While BJ eventually had a very caring stepmom, he still felt unloved as he knew different if he was at least more alive.

The misunderstandings turned from bad to worse. Eventually, BJ moved out of his parents' house. He got a job, became independent and could buy all the things he wanted.

His relationship with his family became almost nonexistent.

His family's efforts to reach out in time were greeted with a cold shoulder. BJ took their frustration as an affirmation that everything he did was wrong in their eyes, and that he could never measure up to anything.

BJ found the comfort and acceptance he desired from people whom he thought were his friends. He felt more cared for and acknowledged in that environment. This fueled him his adulthood.

Crossroads

He ended up spending time with a lot of not-so-good people as he lived in find where he belonged. It was all trial and error. BJ did what felt good but not necessarily right. And it felt like the good times would never end.

Sometimes you have to lose yourself to find yourself, BJ did. There and a half years ago, BJ was in a convenience store when he was illegally arrested by policemen who claimed they were on a drug buy-bust operation and that he was one of their suspects.

The policemen surrounded him, and forcibly brought him to the police station. They wanted two things in exchange for his freedom: an exorbitant amount of cash and names of other people who could take his place and from whom they could collect those names.

When BJ bravely but politely refused, they exposed him to the media to make their bogus operation look legal. The case went to court, but he was acquitted of all charges after three long years in city jail.

Self-help

BJ had a choice to make when he lost contact with the outside world. With this much time in his hands, would he allow himself to deteriorate, or start discovering what refuge his cozy self had to offer?

He decided to make use of his time productively and change for the better. There were no counselors or advisors around. But he had access in the prison library with books on self-help, development and productivity. He started reading. He also talked with people around him and listened.

Through self-evaluation and learning, he moved through the complex journey of accepting, knowing, understanding and finding closure to predicaments he had no time to work on before. On top of this list of problems he had loved ones his family to care.

His dad and eldest sister had made it a point to visit him every week. They would talk about anything under the sun. Sportivity, they moved opening up about their life as a family. They now had all the time they needed to sort things out and explain to each other why and how they behaved.

This practice created like welcome therapeutic moments. The effort BJ's family exercised to spend time with him made him feel truly belonged. In his solitude, issues were resolved one at a time.

Ultimate legacy

The family members have forgiven each other, deciding to move on with a stronger sense of love. All in all, the observation brought the family closer together. They had finally accepted one another. No guilt. Solitude.

It has become a common notion for parents to believe that good education would suffice as their ultimate legacy to their children. But more than education, a parent or adult should instill virtues vital to a child's growth.

It's now proven that, yes, it all boils down to the family. If the foundation of love and strength giving are not fulfilled, diamonds are that person would easily crumble and give in to pressure.

His story shows how familial roots could spell the difference between a person either adjusting to life's changes in a healthy way, or succumbing to its harsh realities. The years of lost freedom have given BJ the wisdom most of us would never directly acquire.

"The day the child realizes that all adults are imperfect, he becomes an adolescent; the day he forgives them, he becomes an adult; the day he forgives himself, he becomes wise"

BJ (third from right) at fashion director Jackie Aquino (center)'s 10th birthday dinner last month

He went through one of life's constant storms and has emerged a southern, where man, and certainly, this would not have been possible if not always for his and his family's initiative to strive in the face of adversity. He is fortunate and truly blessed.

As A. Schlegel, "The day the child realizes that all adults are imperfect, he becomes an adolescent; the day he forgives them, he becomes an adult; the day he forgives himself, he becomes wise."

We all know that letting go and moving on is always the right thing to do, and we always hear that "experience is the best teacher." This may work for adults.

But the skills to go through self-growth depend on how one has learned the habits of competence, responsibility and discipline in his or her childhood. Should we allow our children to grow up not having these skills?

The author is a self-development and behavior management speaker and consultant-seminars for employee motivation, leadership and empowerment. She is also a teacher at the School of Fashion and the Arts. E-mail her at marina.benipayo@yahoo.com or visit www.marinabenipayo.com.

Happy's funky fashion for little girls

HAPPY ANDRADA HAS DESIGNED A colorful, edgy, quirky and trendy little "Little Princess" collection for little girls aged 2 to seven.

The collection experiments with such details as ribbon, buttons, studded charms, lace, ribbons, corsets to make each piece unique.

It has plenty of prints and bright hues: yellow, blue, pink, orange, green, black, white, violet and red. The line includes Diva Princess, Chic Princess, Rocker Princess, Fairy Princess, Kawaiiko Pop Princess and Hippie Princess.

Born in the '80s, Andrada was exposed to different art sensibilities. Remembering how growing up years, Andrada recalls her own set of clothes, from the "jeans and jumper" to the Madonna-esque—from "The Sound of Music" to "The Addams Family."

"I also drool over The Rolling Stones song 'Paint It Black,'" Happy said.

For the bright designer, Andrada was inspired by Jem and the Holograms cartoons she'd watch every day as a little girl.

The collection is now available at F*ART (Fashion ART) in 2 Brixton corner E-1st flanking Quezon Ct. Call 09177242779 or visit www.happyandrada.com.

Experience music with a purpose

Musika! Musika!

Featuring the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra Rhythm Ensemble, and the Klassikal Music Foundation Scholars

Wednesday, June 23, 2010 • Rizal Ballroom, Shangri-La Makati
Cocktails at 6PM, Dinner at 7PM and Show at 8PM

Special Guests
George T. Yang • Jose Mari Chan • Pinky Marquez • Rachelle Geraldan

Vocal Direction by Lemuel Dela Cruz

Musical Direction by Ruiel Colmenar

Written & Directed by Freddie Santos

For the benefit of the KLASSIKAL MUSIC

Multivitamins help kids grow taller and smarter

GOING TO SCHOOL IS FUN FOR MOST kids but it also opens possibilities to a lot of stress. Aside from hard lessons and late nights of studying, kids are sometimes pressured to perform well in school.

A child can't do well in school if he/she doesn't have the right preparations. A sensible nutrition, good sleeping patterns and substantial amount of physical activities can make a child healthy and fit to go to school everyday. Parents should also check on the progress of their children's school.

A child will surely feel better once his parents give him/her the proper recognition for every achievement he/she gets. Likewise, parents were as good motivators once their child performs a little slow in school. Caring parents need not worry anymore. A health supplement is made to help kids perform well in school in terms of thinking level.

Hi-Strata is specially formulated with TLC, a health supplement that helps kids grow taller and smarter. TLC helps develop more neurons in the brain, resulting a child to think faster and achieve sharper memory. With Lysine, a child develops the right appetite to eat healthy food.

Tiny is known to combat stunted growth. Height is one factor that creates intimidation. The basic "fall in the line by height" significantly affects the self-confidence of those school kids with slow height growth. With the highly capable formula of TLC, a child now has the chance to achieve the proper height for his/her age.

Devotees of Our Lady of Piat to hold Mass at Sto. Domingo Church

THE TOWN OF PIAT IN CAGAYAN VALLEY hosts the Novena Day of Our Lady of the Visitation of Piat on July 2 at Mahal Morada, devotees gather at the Sto. Domingo Church on the Saturday after July 2, which is July 3 this year. Auxiliary Bishop Ricardo Baccay of Tuguegarao will celebrate Mass at 9 a.m. with the St. John M.S. Choir singing during the Mass. Organized by the Devotees of the Novena before Our Piat Foundation headed by Sen. Edgar Aglipay, the Novena Mass committee is headed by Carmen Corag, committee members include Atty. Fernandez Aglipay and Nina Corag-Hanabi, registration; Aurora Lacsi and Becky Torres, attendant processions; Tita Rose Tan, flowers; Dr. Louie Evangelista, Mass celebrants; Policarpio Lacsi, communication; Josie Domingo, banner and Boter Pascual and Tita Rose Tan, breakfast reception. Those interested to join the breakfast reception after the Mass in the 2nd floor of the KFC restaurant across the church, may offering is P200

Meat and fish processing seminar

The Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on meat and fish processing to be held at the PTTC, Department of Trade and Industry Bldg., Roxas Blvd., corner Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., on June 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials and cooking. Participants will get to experience how to make tocino, chicken, longganisa, bacon, Chinese Lucban sausage, embutido, chicken nuggets, chicken and pork ham, pork adobo, fish ball, fish fillet, Spanish and tomato sardines, fish burger, squidball, corned beef.

Dress courses include how to make vegetable preserve Lechara from papaya, achuete, carrot, sayote, etc.) and peanut butter.

Also, participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. Lunch and snack will be served, handouts and all raw materials be hands-on will also be provided.

Call 436-1600, 421-1517, 911-6001 or 433-7851 loc 30 or www.GoldenTreasureSkills.com.

Writing workshop

A workshop designed for adults and/or children who want to learn the basics of creative writing is set June 26. Call 810-8888, 810-8801, e-mail mindstormsfx@yahoo.com.

Local mag teams up with Parents Magazine US

COMMITTED TO GIVING parents in raising their kids right, Smart Parenting takes the bar by partnering with Parents Magazine, the leading US expert on children's health and development, to give 95 upto readers their monthly dose of world-class parenting articles and features.

Parents Magazine celebrates today's mother's every day, an who takes good care of her family by also taking care of herself. While each issue features on nurturing children and babies, Parents Magazine is also packed with articles expecting women's health, fitness, lifestyle, travel, relationships and food.

For the May issue of Smart Parenting, Parents Magazine include everyday lessons one can teach kids, how to go about kids' dental health early on, and a whole lot more. Smart Parenting editor-in-chief Ma. Fenia Cruz says "We're very happy to announce our exclusive syndication of Parents Magazine. See this is not the only surprise that we have for our readers. Be watch for more exciting additions in Smart Parenting in the coming months."

Smart Parenting is available in newsstands, bookstores and supermarkets nationwide. Visit www.smartparenting.com.ph or www.facebook.com/smartparenting.ph.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lira Soriano-G. Velarde

James Taylor, Carole King raise money for charity

BOSTON — GRAMMY WINNERS JAMES TAYLOR AND CAROLE KING announced on Sunday they have raised more than $1.5 million so far in donations to various charities on their "Troubadour Reunion" tour. The singer-songwriters held a news conference before their show at the TD Garden in Boston to present donations raised through the halfway point of the North American leg of their tour to the Natural Resources Defense Council, Alliance for the Wild Rockies and other charities.

DATSUMAGA

Like a sugar rush

Daniel Matsunaga bares all in a candid conversation

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

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'Probe' signs off on June 30

CHEONG Lazaro

"PROBE," THE AWARD-WINNING program that pioneered investigative journalism on Philippine television, is bidding goodbye after 24 years of dissecting the top issues and personalities in the country.

The program is going full circle by sending its remarkable run, which began during the presidency of Corazon Aquino, with a two-part series on June 23 and June 30 on ABS-CBN about the ascend to the country's highest office of Aquino, President-elect Benigno Aquino III.

A special farewell episode featuring the program's best stories airs on July 18.

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GALLERIA

1 NINJA	6 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME	7 TOY STORY 3
3 I'LL BE THERE	8 DIGITAL
4 THE KARATE KID	9 LETTERS TO JULIET
5 THE KARATE KID	10 SEX AND THE CITY 2

MANILA — METRO EAST

MANILA	METRO EAST
1 NINJA	1 NINJA
2 THE KARATE KID	2 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
3 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)	3 THE KARATE KID
4 TOY STORY 3	4 TOY STORY 3
5 KILLERS	5 SEX AND THE CITY 2
6 I'LL BE THERE	6 LETTERS TO JULIET
7 LETTERS TO JULIET	7 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
	8 I'LL BE THERE

NOVALICHES — FORUM ROBINSONS

NOVALICHES	FORUM ROBINSONS
1 TOY STORY 3	1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 I'LL BE THERE	2 I'LL BE THERE
3 LETTERS TO JULIET	3 LETTERS TO JULIET
4 THE KARATE KID	4 THE KARATE KID

STA. ROSA — LIPA

STA. ROSA	LIPA
1 TOY STORY 3	1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 I'LL BE THERE	2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE KARATE KID	3 I'LL BE THERE
4 THE A-TEAM	4 THE KARATE KID

DASMARIÑAS — STARMILLS

DASMARIÑAS	STARMILLS
1 THE KARATE KID	1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 I'LL BE THERE	2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE A-TEAM	3 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
4 TOY STORY 3	4 I'LL BE THERE
	5 THE KARATE KID
	6 MANDALUNE

IMUS — AMORES

IMUS	AMORES
1 THE KARATE KID	1 THE KARATE KID
2 TOY STORY 3	2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE A-TEAM	3 I'LL BE THERE
4 I'LL BE THERE	4 THE A-TEAM

TACLOBAN — DUMAGUETE

TACLOBAN	DUMAGUETE
1 THE A-TEAM	1 I'LL BE THERE
2 THE KARATE KID	2 THE A-TEAM
3 I'LL BE THERE	3 THE KARATE KID

BACOLOD — ILOILO

BACOLOD	ILOILO
1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)	1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 I'LL BE THERE	2 THE KARATE KID
3 THE KARATE KID	3 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
4 THE A-TEAM	4 I'LL BE THERE
5 TOY STORY 3	5 ROBIN HOOD
6 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME	6 TOY STORY 3

GENSAN

1 TOY STORY 3 (Digital 3D)
2 I'LL BE THERE
3 THE A-TEAM
4 THE KARATE KID

ILOCOS NORTE

1 THE KARATE KID
2 TOY STORY 3
3 I'LL BE THERE

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

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SENATOR Jinggoy plans to raise three major concerns with Aquino on Pnoy's SONA.

2 groups pick 'emissary' to gov't

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ANIMATION FILM MAKERS (TAFIA) is lobbying for programs that would make Pnoy's first SONA (State of the Nation Address) historic by design.

In a dinner meeting on Saturday, members of the Singkit-Kutang Silang, organized by Bobbsikap Filipino (SIKAP) and the Directors Guild of the Philippines Inc. (DGPI) sat down with Sen. Jinggoy Estrada to discuss the status of the film industry vis-à-vis the upcoming government.

After which, Estrada told Inquirer that the movie workers and filmmakers "expressed their concerns and suggestions," which he will formally relay after Aquino is sworn into office on June 30. Estrada said he was honored to be picked as emissary for the two-film industry bodies.

However, he said he would have to work closely with three other actors (Bong Revilla, Lito Lapid and Tito Sotto) in the Senate in pursuing legislation that would benefit the industry.

Umbrella agency

Estrada related three major issues that were raised during the meeting on Saturday: establishment of a National Film Commission; reorganization of the Metro Manila Film Festival; and streaming Filipino film festivals sponsored by Philippine embassies abroad.

Estrada explained that the film commission's role would not be a duplication of the current mandate of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP). "There will be no conflict between the two. I am drafting a bill to create the [new] agency," he said.

Joel Lamangan of the DGPI said FDCP and the commission could be the umbrella agency governing film and that the FDCP would "fully underwrite."

Estrada reiterated that he was battling for the restart of the supervision of the MMFF to the Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

Lamangan agreed, but said his group was willing to wait until next year, so as not to "disrupt this year's festival in December."

The filmmaker said the embassy-sponsored festivals could promote internationally acclaimed filmmakers like Brillante Mendoza and other budding directors abroad.

Estrada said the industry's concerns also recommended the following recommendations in turn: first from Grace Poe-Llamanzares to the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, Tony F. Reyes to the Film Academy of the Philippines, Bobby Graces to the FDCP and the vacancies of Ronnie Ricketts in the Optical Media Board and Jesse Robredo in the Metrodiffed.

Email: bayani.sandiego@philstar.com

'I'm seeing this through'

LAWYER FELIX L. GOSIM—GMA, president and CEO of GMA 7—asked on Monday about the P35-million libel suit he filed against ABS-CBN in 2008 over allegations of TV ratings manipulation in Bacolod, replied:

"I'm not with drawing from that because I want the truth to come out."

"We spent millions to prepare our signed deals; we could have saved so much if we did what they said we did—just paid off stars. And if we were even inclined to do so, just for the sake of argument, why Bacolod? Why not Cebu or Davao ... or in Metro Manila, where it would have spelled a bigger difference?

"Where your integrity is at stake, you do everything in your power to clear your name."

(Emerald Mabanta)

OVERHEARD

Like a sugar rush

From page E1

also full of harmful calories?

What it is these days is to organize an Makoto fans, Akiko Mc and Daniel Matsunaga are head these fan's battles do your

among the three, Daniel seems to be the busiest and fun, juggling two GMA 7 shows (the nightly soap "Laugh na Pil, Iyak Mo," with Albert Martinez and the weekly "Love Bug" With Gretchen Ho" with Iza Calzado).

He's taking a second crash course in local show biz, as he's constantly barraged with questions on possible love affairs with Iza and Heart.

He'd probably describe Iza as "lovely" and Heart as "beautiful"—like a total refrain.

Before he falls into the frayed name drop his boss wants, an interviewee is in order.

At the press launch of "Love Bug," intrepid reporters dared ask about his nude photos on the Internet. But handlers, dashing their heads and frantically waving their hands, scrambled to stanch up the inquisitors.

But it's a question that needs to be asked and one present Daniel in a different light... than he's no meekhan more.

True enough, Daniel rose to the occasion. In a calm and cool voice, he tactfully explained: "Those photos were taken in 2005. I was very young then. Only 16."

That he was underage makes the nude photos all the more an iffy subject, he noted. "I didn't know any better when people, like the photographer, paid you for a job. They shouldn't do that kind of stuff [to young people]. That's unjustified. I have no [further] comment ... I'm sorry."

Dating his budget Misa now take a backseat, he admitted. "Sometimes you have to choose and my schedule right now is pretty hectic."

Still, he conceded that acting in the indie "2 Xantoxen" was an enriching experience in other ways. "I learned a lot from my director, Adolf Alix," he recalled.

He loves storytelling about the Philippines where he's been based for the past year. "I love the weather, the girls, the food. I love chicken adobo."

He draws the line on kalut, though. "Maybe one day I will do it but I'm scared," he quipped.

KATY Perry greets Adam Lambert at the 2010 MuchMusic Video Awards in Toronto June 20. REUTERS

JOHN Lloyd Cruz finally admits romance with Shaina Magdayao in "The Road" on Sunday.

Deal to pirate top comic falls through

By the Entertainment staff

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD:

Top Comic was almost pirated by ABS-CBN to replace Willie Revillame as game host on "Pinoy Henyo."

Negotiations were in full throttle and TC was about to jump ship, after reportedly settling the blessing of colleagues from old home.

All was suddenly the deal fell through. It would've been a homecoming for TC. But it wasn't meant to be.

Ika nga.

Drunken slumber

When this rumor first hit the gossip columns, Troubled Actor's handlers tried to sweep it under the rug.

A reliable source confirmed that TA got drunk and went wild during a big event abroad.

After the party TA was spotted lumbering out of the posh venue. He was later seen sleeping near a world famous landmark. Cops dutifully deposited him on a police truck.

Shame, shame.

WILLIE Revillame

Fall of the mighty

How the mighty can fall.

Scandalous Celebrity is much loathed by peers now, even by erstwhile friends.

SC has changed for the worse, according to pals who helped him in the past.

One close buddy described SC today as arrogant. Another former friend says SC is afflicted with amnesia, acting like FF is a stranger when truth is, she helped SC land jobs when he was a struggling wannabe.

CB and FF believe SC's current woes are merely poetic justice.

Woo-cording World

ORLANDO, Florida—"Harry Potter" star Daniel Radcliffe led groups of excited kids dressed in Hogwarts uniforms as the Wizarding World of Harry Potter theme park officially opened last weekend.

Radcliffe, flagon Grint who plays the boy wizard's best friend Ron Weasley, and other actors from the blockbuster movie and book series, were on hand at Universal Orlando to limited up more than eight hours to be among the first visitors. Reuters

Promoter pays up

LOS ANGELES—The promoter behind Michael Jackson's 02 farewell concert in London contributed more than $1 million toward the cost of the singer's memorial service last year, AEG said the executors of the Jackson estate said they have given $1.2M to the city of Los Angeles to help cover the $3.2M cost of policing and other measures for the July 2009 public memorial at AEG's Staples Center venue. Reuters

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's galshows on TV. (And why are we not surprised, if we are stoned.)

■ Jolee Estrada on Willie Revillame's appearance on TV5's Sunday variety show "PDL," which was hosted by ABS-CBN:

"Syempre nanuot [nakabighani] dahil ang pagsasama niya [Willie] doon ay sunlang matibo kandi pagpatito ang isang kabilyan." (Ah, eh...)

■ Maria Consuelito Lagumbita on what she will miss when she steps down as MTRCB chair:

"I will surely miss what will be my new days, parents. Ano na day n'ya the same." (We can imagine.)

■ Sunshine Dizon, asked if she is pregnant:

"I can't really say po ningas. The last time kasi parang nauna mainfluse sa ... Basi'm showing signs." (How about a pregnancy test?)

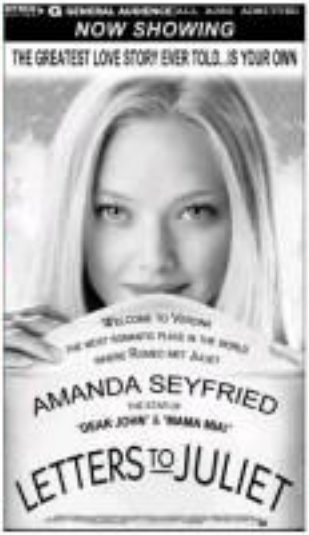
■ Janis Redditoma, asked what drew Sir Archigan Sam Milan:

"Siguro po nilo na hindi ako po ako nakapag-'Oho ... Iro-retain it like a badge of honor'! That's refreshing.)

■ Ariel Pineda's message to Ariel:

"Sana huwag kang magbago ..." (Makong ka, Ingrit.) Gerry Plaza

(Starwall, The Sun, Showbiz Central, Inquirer.net)



MILEY Cyrus (R) and Jaslin Bieber at the 2010 MuchMusic Video Awards REUTERS

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Maui T to Lovi P: Don't be paranoid

TOO BAD MY COLUMN ITEM last Monday about John Lloyd Cruz being a dental king was quite anti-climactic. I whole it days before Lloydie finally admitted his romance with Shaina Magdayao and his past relationship with Bodie Cadiz-ran in "The Buzz" last Sunday.

Was he pressured by all the negative write-ups about his ear being mum enough to come out in the open about the real score between Shaina, Bodie and him?

Was that why his only recourse was to eat his words and make a public announcement of the real state of his love affairs? Or was our naughty colleague Jeri E. Yenko pa nang-tiris dun? Nung nalilibak na siya ng press, sinuwerte na rin siya sa wakas si Lloydie." What made him drink that he can find the public and the press for so long? Ingat, Lloydie!

***

Bodie Cadiz-wise is relieved that the John Lloyd episode in her life is officially over, now that the latter has set the record straight.

Lloydie owes it to Bodie. It couldn't have come at a better time than now, which happens to be Bodie's birthday week. How uncanny that he and she have the same birthday (June 24).

"Bitaw akong nahuuran ng isa. The truth will set you free talaga," Bodie says. "Thank you JL. Indeed it was very special. No regrets. Now let's step, regroup and move forward with a smile." As Bodie turns another year older, she's the case head of all the memories and the memories which have made her the fabulous!

***

Maui Taylor wonders why Lovi Poe is dragging her name into all her (Lovi's) interviews. "She keeps saying she doesn't know me. Neither do I know her," Maui says emphatically. "So, she should not point fingers. I've got nothing to do with her relationship with Ronald Singson and, for the record, hindi ko inagaw si Ronald sa kanya. I am happily in love with my BF. She should stop being insecure and paranoid." Lovi might be out in a movie called "Girl Pressing."

***

Abby Poon and I join all Michael Jackson diehards all over the world in remembering our idol in prayer on June 25, his first death anniversary.

To lighten the mood, I told Abby: "Its a tribute to MJ to your show 'Here to Stay,' you should invite Jaime Garchitorena to be your guest versus one to represent MJ first. I will blame him for MJ's sudden death and he will defend himself."

Abby laughed. "Hahaha! I might forget my hosting chores if that happens, 'cause I'll be carried away by my love for MJ. Pati ako makilipag-away kay Tito Mawi pa." If only that "Thriller" or an episode would be possible, Doc Mawi will surely lose face. Beat it, Jer. Mi Ni Ne Mandaraglehin!

***

FLAce singer-songwriter Andrea Davis is said to be at the forefront of defining a new sound for OPM.

A major record label signed her to lead its roster of new artists in coming up with original songs versus churning out cover remakes. "They told me, 'You're free to go for a different vibe for your record. We encourage.' For any artist, such words are so important as winning an award or selling a gazillion copies of CDs," she said.

Andrea soon invite more with a single titled "Take You," copies of which were given out for free. The tactic would prepare any record mogul, but it won Best Original Song at the Urban Music Awards.

She has been tapped by PLDT myDSL to be its ambassador for high quality music. Her music videos, "Manila" and "Text You Soon," are streamed on PLDT myDSL Watchpad.

***

Robbie Padilla wowed the crowd at the "Retrato Dekota Wars," showcasing Jag's Holiday 2010 collection.

The show was set in the distant future. The world portrayed is of a utopian dream (Jag/Thug). The city is then suddenly thrown into conflict when dark and white armies (Anti-Fit) raise hostilities, and the once utopian world is plunged into war. Enter the hero—Robin Padilla who saves the day.

E-mail: ssantos@philstar.net; ris@yahoo.com

MAY IS Lovi Poe (L) dragging her name into every interview? Maui Taylor (R) wonders, and concludes, "She's paranoid."

COUNCIL members (from L): Jojo Nubla, Jose Javier Reyes, Antonio Salas Santos, Tess Cuffie- and (below, in yellow) Jul Alcaraz in discussion with PEN publisher August Tantoco (below, L).

Readers' council

AND NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS: The Inquirer Entertainment section has formed a council of readers who have generously agreed to monitor these pages and periodically suggest ways to improve industry coverage.

Our "councilmen" are filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes, former network executive Tess Cuffie, lawyer-film producer Jul Alcaraz, producer-actor Antonio Salas Santos, and theater leader Jojo Nubla. They met for the first time recently with members of the Entertainment staff, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc and PEN publisher August Tantoco.

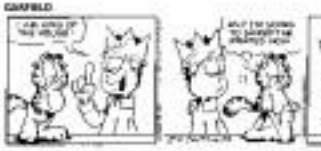
"Impossible 'pwede' would like to combine 'pwede' and 'imposible' and create one word: 'impwede,'" said Nubla.

"The Hollywood column is a treat because it's written by a Filipino who works with the foreign press group there," remarked Reyes.

Alcaraz discussed what constitutes libel. "It's difficult to put parameters," she said. "You have to study every circumstance."

Between quarterly meetings, the group agreed to regularly exchange viewpoints and forward suggestions to the section.

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



A LITTLE BIT BY JESS RIBERA

PUGAD BAABY BY PAL LAXMAN

DICK TRACY

LOVE HOOTS BY ELIZABETH HOROWITZ

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN WALRAVEN

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

TULDOR BY HABA COLL

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

BIRD MACHINE BY MIKE ARREN

MARMAN'S LADDER BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY Highly sociable and very vulnerable to your feelings and emotions. Although you are allowed to live in your fantasy world, others around you may find you a little out of touch with reality. You have a natural ability to be a good listener. A writer's career is favoured. Your lucky numbers are 3, 12, 21, 30, 39, 48.

ARIES (March 21 to April 20) Family gatherings are a mixed bag. Something is happening at home that is exciting at one time but does not go along with this. You have no other choice. Unexpected problems result in positive.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 20) You're optimistic, confident and ready to take on the world. Be careful you don't do all more than you can chew because it's really easy to do this today. Stay within the limits of reality.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Good get-togethers during family holiday. You're tempted to be extravagant. On the other hand, this might be a good day for business and commerce. Nevertheless, good judgment prevails.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You feel enthusiastic, happy and confident. You've got the world in the palm of your hand. This is wonderful. However, keep your feet on the ground. Life is not a dress rehearsal. Do this seriously.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Socializing with others you have very spiritual links. You feel overwhelmingly open and generous to others. Be careful you don't overdo it. Don't be taken for a ride.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Mixing with the extraordinary, rare, unknown and lost today. Entertainment, any media connected, is favoured. Get together with people from different backgrounds. Be inspired.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Work the Sun is right now in your sign. Your personality is more dynamic. Positive and strong, you look good. Opportunities, parties and increased responsibilities today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Mind every appointment to avoid the trip or worse today. Similarly, accomplishments a chance or surprise further elevation or take a serious, confining grief.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Wife, partner, lover may collect and good humour are rules your way today. Keep your positive mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Mixing your relations with partners will be excellent today. People feel emotional and generous to and each other. Enjoy a happy conversation with loved ones.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Don't make promises you can't keep at work today. Your enthusiasm for something could make you promise more than you can deliver. Watch!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) What a fun loving day! This is a great day for sports, romance, love affairs, parties, the arts and people! Even with others. Enjoy! Inspirational, artistic and dramatic and unusually creative.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs go to www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

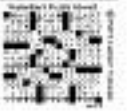
9	5	7	3	2	1	4	6	8
2	1	4	9	6	8	3	5	7
6	3	8	5	4	7	1	9	2
5	8	9	7	1	3	6	2	4
3	4	1	6	8	2	5	7	9
7	6	2	4	5	9	8	3	1
8	2	6	1	9	5	7	4	3
1	9	5	8	3	4	2	1	6
4	7	3	2	7	6	9	8	5

Concepts Sudoku

	8	2				5	4	
6			7		1			9
			8					6
			6					3
			1					5
		5					8	
	9					7		
8					3			
1	4	3	9		8	6	5	2

Medium Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Only on Philippine TV

WATCHING TELEVISION IS SUPPOSED TO be a daily delight, but it's occasionally a confounding and off-putting experience. Contrast and recent tributes on the local small screen:

Judged

On the noontime talent search, "Showtime," a weird insinuation has been floated that must in a fire in the television world: Each week, viewers have the power to vote one judge off! The astounding transparent flaw in the law of value the valid judging process is supposed to be all about: It's the judges who judge, not the other way around.

Any self respecting judge of talents would refuse to agree to such a weird set-up, but the current jurors on "Showtime" appear to have no such compunction—at pride to the value of their worth.

Under the circumstances, the judges are expected, not just to judge, but also to "entertain" the viewers by singing, dancing, doing comedy or otherwise showing off their talents. The fact that some of the "performing judges" aren't really talented at entertaining is beside the point. All they should need really be required to do is come up with insightful and objective decisions, period.

Only on Philippine TV, indeed...

Contested

Also confounding was the recent interview on "Wowowee," when a contestant decided to accept the cash prize rather than taking a risk in the hope of making a lot more money—but , the hosts and audience were making so much noise that nobody heard her final decision!

Only after she protested and the show's tape was played back did the hosts realize that they had made a big boo-boo, and she was given the cash prize that she was entitled to. Just the same, the show ended up with egg on its collective face.

This is a sad example of TV hosts focusing so much on "strategy" and "statistics" that they forget the basic focus of a game show: should be on its contestants and their all-important decisions, not on host and/or "fun" and games. How anti-entertainment can you get?

Undeserved

We're also turned off by the number of all-his TV "hosts" who can't speak Tagalog well, but are still made to stomach spirals in the most stilted and silly way. Getting these producers obviously don't care if they lick viewers off, as long as their race protegés are given the breaks that they don't deserve.

The bottom line is, new TV hosts should first learn the language really well before they dare to say a word in front of the TV cameras. It's not about you, guys, it's all about the viewers as should be, so don't "position" on TV at their expense!

Compromised

Have We're getting a lot of complaints from viewers about TV shows' irresponsible use of child talents. Among the complaints are "too adult" portrayals by juvenile talents, who are sometimes made to play hot girls, sexy "models," dirty old men, gays, etc.

The reason is that the rules are supposed to be funny and thus shouldn't be taken seriously but the young talents' welfare is still compromised: TV people should treat child talents with the special care and consideration they deserve.

Viewfinder

Nestor U. Torre

Opening This Week

Pendong

Directed by Jose Liza, stars Felix Roco, Shaya Upfrigco, Will Devaughn, Kathryn Iglesias, Xinkeong Dee, Maelle Vicente

A conservative student (Upfrigco) invites his friends, a movie star (Devaughn) and a college dropout (Roco), on a road trip to a far-flung province to search for his real father. The digital movie features cameos by 80 stars and a 1977 Volkswagen Beetle. Liza, who also directed the acid flick "Sirena," says this buddy movie was inspired by his own "real-life experiences with two classmates." Exclusively in SM Digital Cinemas.

Knight and Day

Directed by James Mangold; stars Tom Cruise, Cameron Diaz, Peter Sarsgaard, Viola Davis, Olivier Martinez, Paul Dano, Maggie Grace

Lonely bachelorette (Diaz) gets entangled with rogue spy (Cruise) who turns her life upside down as they embark on a global adventure to find the keys to a limitless power source. Cameron Diaz gives a "C" rating in its Letter-o-Meter. Filmstruckmovies's Victoria Alexander thinks it's "movement-less . . . the CGI, stunts and fight scenes are hollow and forced." Washington Post describes it as "half-in-the-bag, half-comatose." Opens Thursday.

Ninja 2010

Directed by Isaac Florentino; stars Scott Adkins, Emerald Ruiz, Mike Hijii, Rigo Ignacio

Generation kill (Adkins) is sacked to prevent a box that contains the gun of the last Ninjutsu master (Ruiz). Unfortunately, limited cast commands no "ninja fighting styles and comics story." Jobless.com notes that "the bulk of the flick is basically a string of flashy and choreographed and brutal action scenes." Movieweb.ca calls it "one of the biggest assets: It's "an enjoyable ride and far superior to the higher budget Ninja Assassin."

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Pinay Blondes

THE PHILIPPINE PRODUCTION OF "Legally Blonde The Musical" opens June 25 and runs till July 18 at the Meralco Theater, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig. Based on the movie "Legally Blonde" by Amanda Brown and the 2001 film of the same name, the musical is about Elle Woods, a sorority girl who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend Warner.

In the cast are (from left) Jinky Llamosares, Geneva Cruz, Nikki Gil (as Elle Woods) and Cris Villonco, among others. The Broadway version received seven nominations at the 2007 Tony Awards. In the same year it won Best New Touring Musical, Best Design and Best Choreography at the Touring Broadway Awards. CarlOYO TOTE

Air Supply back for 3 shows

THE SOFT-ROCK DUO AIR SUPPLY arrives today for a series of concerts on June 25 (SM Megamall Concert Hall) at Aura complex, Pasay), June 26 (Smart Araneta Coliseum) and June 28 (Tacloban Coliseum).

Opening act is the Manila Sound Project (composed of select members of Herding Cheri Garcia, Blue Dies), Hagibis, Dennis Bernard, 1957 & Co. (Mike Figar), Arno Elan (Cielo Gan mid Bernie Bernard, Electromantics (Bella Noblad), among others, with the special participation of Clara Benin.

AIR SUPPLY Russell (left) and Hannah Hitch-hike the soft-rock duo known as Air Supply

Rock at Metrobar

The Jean Dela Cruz band, The Dawn, Maria Cadiz, Lalita Carbon, Nali Antilla and Grace Fortuno perform on July 1, 8 p.m. at Metrobar, 47 West Avenue, Quezon City. Call 374.7595.

'Gabby'ng K Gamla'

Gabby Concepcion, K Brosa and Sue Gamla are featured in "Gabby'ng K Gamla" a musical-comedy show on July 2 and 3, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum. Call 722 0035, 425-7077 or log on to ticketworld.com.

'70s Superband

Ninoy Tan and Roy Magsino (formerly of Wahiki) Shaun Gaddi (VST & Co.), Louie Bigue (Cinderella), Mon Dejan (Lahaya), and brothers Jun and Nilo Mallilin (Orkestrada) to team up as the '70s Superband which is set to perform on July 27 at Hard Rock Cafe Makati.

Tonight

Bowtease festival at The Bistro

K BROSAS

CHEER FACTOR

'Patient X' in Puchon

FILIPINO FILMMAKER Tom Lorenzo revealed that his horror movie "Patient X" will have its world premiere at the 14th Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival, to be held in South Korea from July 15 to 25. Dubbed Pilar, the festival gathers animated, suspense, fantasy movies and aims to be "the biggest gala of genre films in Asia."

Lorenzo also reported that "Patient X" cop-killed by Richard Gutierrez, is "now being sold by Iris Lee Angeles companies for North American and worldwide release via the Overdrive movies and on home video." Reports Sam Diego Jr.

need a job?